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Spirit in Action

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INSIDE: Lesson by W. John Murray, 28 Daily Prayer Treatments, brief bios of spiritual luminaries, and a Lesson by Nona Brooks

JESUS THE CHRIST
Rev. W. John Murray
Divine Science Society of the Healing Christ New York, 1927.

There was a man born of woman whose name was Jesus and who is known as the Christ. His existence is as well certified to as that of Napoleon, Caesar or Alexander, or of any man of the past whom no living person has seen. Jesus was immeasurably the most remarkable personage the world has ever known. There have been many great spiritual [leaders] in the world; many leaders of world thought and uplifters of world aspiration, many founders of religions. But no one ever spoke as this man spake. Clear and pure in intellect, modest and self-effacing in character, sinless in life, detached and aloof from any desire for personal power, wealth, dominion, honors or luxury, he performed within a [brief time] a work that saved the human race from extinction through sheer loss of spiritual vision...

At the time that Jesus was born the world was entirely under the dominion of the Roman empire, which contained within the power, cruelty and brutality on which it was built the seeds of destruction and annihilation. Men were either bond or free; citizens or slaves; and the number of slaves was enormous and growing formidably. Woman was a chattel and virtue was at its lowest ebb, brilliant and cultivated as society appeared. The world was for the greater part plunged in idolatry, and would have been entirely thus had it not been for a few esoteric priesthoods and the [influence] of the [Jewish people and their religion].

Jesus began his ministry by working wonders--"miracles" as they are called...He "began to speak of the kingdom of heaven and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among people." He did what no world teacher before or since ever dared to do. He identified himself with God so that when he spoke of himself he spoke as, of and for God. These are among his declarations:

...I am the light of the world. I am the door. I am the bread of life. I am the good shepherd.

I am the resurrection and the life. Before Abraham was I am.

... I am in the Father and the Father in me. All things that the Father hath are mine.

If a man keep my sayings he shall never see death. I am the true vine...

Destroy this temple and I shall raise it up in three days.

He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live...

I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly...

It is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the last day.

...Millions have puzzled over these words. Millions have gone to their death for them...The highest civilization the world has ever known has been built up on them. Jesus placed before [us] the loftiest ideals ever visioned. He declared them, expounded them, lived up to them and his chief solicitation was that we, too, should attain to them.

Jesus has won his way to [our] hearts... He may have been hated, as he was persecuted; but ...he [has become] the object of universal love and veneration.

The theory that Jesus was the victim of a strange hallucination has been held by many, and this theory is by some contended for today, but it is a theory that cannot stand the test of logic, since it amounts to the contention that an unsound mind is productive of truer thought than a sound mind; that insanity is a higher state of intellect than sanity; that disorder is more perfect than order--all of which are absurdities.

No, Jesus must be accepted on his own statement of being; that he was the way, the truth and the life; that he came to teach us all truth; that all that God possessed was his; that hereafter we should see him sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven; that he and the Father were one.

It is not to prove the divinity of Jesus that this Lesson is written. For many centuries Christians believed that Jesus was the Second Person of the Triune God; the Son in the Divine Trinity ... that he was Very God of Very God; that he was the incarnation of God in human form. The mind of Christianity was resolved into this belief at the time that Arius stood out in the early church and held with all his strength for the conception of Jesus as man. At that time the Christian world was mostly Aryan and it took many years for the church to stamp out the belief. Yet this belief is what the world clings to and turns to more resolutely day by day.

The Trinity of God is illogical and a fantasy based on belief in God as Person, or a tripartite Person, a Person with three personalities. St. Augustine said that the human mind can no more comprehend the Trinity than a hole made by a child in the sand can contain the ocean. And he was right. Not because of the incapacity of the human mind to comprehend God, but because of the incomprehensibility of the proposition.

Dispense with the idea of the Trinity; regard **God as Principle and Jesus as a God-conscious man who realized to the fullest the divinity that is in everyone**, through whom the Christ of God was speaking, who revealed to us the truth and demonstrated to us Eternal Life--view the Holy Spirit as the active intelligence of God through which the Christ operates, and every one of the Christ mysteries becomes an open book, to be read and understood of all.

Jesus said he was the son of God; that we were the children of God also.

Jesus said that he and the Father were one and that we could become one with them.

Jesus realized his Christhood, took it up and lived it to its fullest consummation, pointing out the way to us to realize also the Christ within us.

Jesus was the Son of Man as he proclaimed himself to be, the Son of God as he also proclaimed himself and the Christ as he affirmed.

His mission was to show us that we are as he was, full of the same divine possibilities. The things that he did we could do and "greater than these" also. He was tempted in all things as we are; human in all ways as we are; and what he taught was that we could be divine in all things as he was.

His words are blasphemy taken merely in the human sense. Read them over, as this Lesson has given them to you, and you will see that, considered in a purely human sense, they are a preposterous assumption of all the powers that are God's. But read them in a spiritual sense and the meaning is entirely clear. Jesus spoke as never man spoke because he had developed the God-consciousness within himself to a point of complete absorption into God. He was in truth the Christ.

Jesus never claimed to be God. He claimed union with God, possession of the Father's power and all that the Father had. "All power is given me in heaven and on earth," he said, and "I shall be with you all days even to the end of the world." Again: "This world shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." This is God-consciousness possible through the Christ spirit.

What Jesus did claim was that he was of God; that he had received from the Father. He disclaimed personal power. "It is not me, but the Father in me; He doeth the work." He had reached the highest spiritual plane, union with the Father, where he was conscious of his tremendous eminence, of his having been with the Father before the birth of the day-star, where he could demonstrate all power because God shared power with him, endued him from on high and manifested...through him. All his acts were for the purpose of making God, the Universal [One], known to [all], of "glorifying" Him. Surely we can approach God with more certainty knowing that Jesus was our elder brother given us to show the way, and demonstrating to us that we, too, can be perfect "even as our heavenly Father is perfect."

Jesus would not ask the impossible of us. He would not ask us to be as God is unless we had the possibilities within us to be what he himself was, humanity absorbed into divinity.

It is of the highest importance that we realize Jesus as one with ourselves, capable of a continuous union of

his mind with the Divine Mind during all the years of his Silence of raising himself by illumination and power received from the Father to complete identification in spirit with Spirit, to the highest plane of Spirit's operation, to Christhood. For if we do not realize Jesus in this manner we lose the point of his teaching, **our one-ness with God**; the capacity within us of doing the works that he did, of becoming one with him and the Father.

This is exactly what Jesus taught us; and an understanding of our capacity as exemplified by him is the key to the solution of all his mystic utterances. Place any one of his sayings under the searchlight of this understanding and the meaning of all his words becomes as clear as crystal. Nothing remains that is hidden or obscure.

This is the real thought of Jesus, and it is permeating the world in this wonderful age of ours, when, through marvelous material progress, all [people] are being brought within speaking distance of each other, as it permeated the little world of Judea, Greece and Rome when the Word was first carried abroad by the early Christians.

This New Thought that Jesus brought into the world is the New Thought of today, recaptured from the past, and made luminous by the developments of modern science. We are standing on the threshold of a new world of things. The powers of the mind are being disclosed in a new manner. The erroneous doctrines of materialism are being scorched into nothingness over the fire of a rigid investigation into the realms of the spiritual and the psychic. So-called "mysteries" of mind, force and energy are being cleared up by discoveries of operations of natural laws of the extent of which we had no conception. It would seem to one who is familiar, for instance, with the latest revelations in the field of psychology that the greatest discovery we moderns can boast of is that of the subconscious mind. The developments that are to follow this discovery may change the face of the world, reconstruct all systems of education and open wide the door into the kingdom of heaven. For the conviction that we have within ourselves the power to shape our destiny leads to the highest knowledge, that of spiritual identity with universal Spirit, the power of the Word, the creative process in the individual based on the creative functioning of the Divine; the identity of the spirit within man with the Spirit of God.

This New Thought is not being spread abroad by churches or formulated into binding creeds of belief and practice, but is penetrating the [human] mind everywhere, assuring us all of a common brotherhood and a united [Parenthood] in God. It is beginning to operate through all religions. It is developing what has been well called "Cosmic Consciousness." This is the oldest of thoughts and yet it is New because of its having remained unexpressed for so long a period although always more or less dimly comprehended.

God is the [Father/Mother] of all [humankind] and all peoples can unite in worshipping [God] as Spirit. Jesus said: "God is Spirit, and they that worship God shall worship in spirit and in truth." And this is the true worship that we have come into--the recognition of Spirit in everything, in matter as in mind, the immanence of Spirit in all things and our sharing of it with, in and through all things.

DAILY PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

Feb 1 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“...clouds of darkness (fear, sorrow, or doubt) that seem to come into our lives are around ‘us’ - and not near the source of Love, but arise from our own...incomplete understanding.” Fannie B. James

Clouds may block my view of the sun, but they never really dim it. Experiences, like clouds, come and go, but divine light shines every moment. Today, I trust and give thanks for the light - it shines even when I don't notice it.

{Today's prayer features denial, affirmation, and gratitude (3 steps)}

Feb 2 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Through study and prayer we learn to accept the Omnipresence of God... We begin to see that...our Source is God.” Nona Brooks

Omnipresent Life expressing in and through my life, with you all things are possible. In you is everything I need to be happy and fulfilled.

{Today's prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, and affirmation (3 steps).}

Feb 3 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“When shall we accept our heaven? Not until we know the truth of it...Heaven is wherever God is. God is everywhere.” Fannie B. James

Heaven isn't an afterlife reward, it is the dwelling place of God, and God is omnipresent, everywhere fully present; therefore, God is where I am and I can experience a bit of heaven in this holy instant. I am forever in God's presence and heavenly experiences are always within my grasp.

{Today's prayer features denial, affirmation, recognition of the Divine and unity with It (4 steps).}

Feb 4 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“[Dear God], I feel your perfect life around me and within me.” Irwin Gregg

I don't always know what is best and I cannot always control every detail of every event, but I can remember that God is always present. I am never alone. God, Pure Love, the Source of all that is, sustains me, expresses through me, and offers me peace and joy that conditions cannot diminish. I allow myself to sense divine life flowing through my life, and I know that all is well.

{Today's prayer features denial, affirmation, recognition of the Divine and unity with It (4 steps).}

Feb 5 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Truth is never afraid to declare new things:

‘Behold, I will do a new thing’ ... ‘I will put a new spirit within you’;

‘A new commandment I give you’ ... ‘They sung a new song’ ...

We cannot enter into Truth until we are ready to accept all these ‘new’ things...New things are only the eternal things seen by a new light...” Fannie B. James

Each time I experience, express, or explore the divine presence in a new way, I find new blessings. Alleluia!

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine, affirmation, and praise (3 steps).}

Feb 6 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Spiritual strength is gained through our understanding that God is with us and for us.” Vernon Shields

There is a goodness, a benevolent power, a supportive presence, a perfect wholeness, a field of possibilities, a source of endless grace in which I live and move and have my being. I cannot be separated from this divine Power; indeed, I am an individualized unit of this universal Substance. This understanding gives me peace, fulfillment, and true happiness. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, denial, affirmation, and release (5 steps).}

Feb 7 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“The world has been crying for ‘more light’ and then shrinks in alarm at the ‘new things’ that ‘more light’ reveals.” Fannie B. James

Fear of failure, fear of loss, fear of rejection, fear of the unknown, fear of sorrow, fear of seeming foolish... it is fear that keeps us stuck. Fear causes us to dismiss the new, to resist change, to try to control life rather than to flow with it. Let there be light! May the light expose and heal fear so that hope, healing, and happiness may flourish. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features positive argumentation.}

Feb 8 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“I now center my faith in the unseen goodness of life.” Irwin Gregg

St. Paul said that we are to live by faith, not by sight. We don’t have to have all the answers (we’ll never even ask every possible question). In the not yet known there are infinite possibilities and there can be joy in exploring, discovering, and embracing them. I may not know what’s next, but I have faith that there is good and more good waiting for me. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features denial, affirmation, and release (3 steps).}

Feb 9 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“The soul illumined sees everything in a new light.” Fannie B. James

I am learning to love myself. I’m discovering that Life loves me as I am. I am remembering more often that I am good enough. As I love myself and trust that life is good and filled with potential and possibility, I am also realizing that in the light of love, miracles abound. Thanks be to God.

{Today’s prayer features affirmation, recognition of the Divine, and gratitude (3 steps).}

Feb 10 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“The voice of God never sounds within you for hurt or harm. It is peace-giving; it is soul-freeing.” Max Ballard

God is love, all love, and only love. Love never wishes us harm. Love never wants us to hurt. Love never abandons us. Love delights in our joy, in our well-being, in our advancement, in our thriving. The voice of God will always be the voice of love. If it’s fear (which is often disguised as hatred, condemnation, shame, prejudice, anxiety, or regret), then it isn’t love, and if it isn’t love, it isn’t Truth. There are many voices in our heads, but we do well to listen only to the voice of love.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine, denial, and affirmation (3 steps).}

Feb 11 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“If we lack any good, it is because we have not known how to accept and appropriate the good that is everywhere.” Fannie B. James

I love the optimism of the New Thought pioneers. I also want to be careful to not allow my belief in unlimited good to cause me to blame myself when I am facing a challenge, nor do I want my ideology to cause me to judge or ignore others who are struggling. I can hope for better days and know that a Power is always available to help me achieve them, while also being gentle, patient, and loving with myself and others when the way is not as smooth as I would like. There is always more good, and loving myself and others in and through the difficult days is actually part of the good that is available. And so it is.

{Today’s prayer features affirmation, denial, intention, and release (4 steps).}

Feb 12 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“When we turn to God, we have all the wisdom of the Infinite working with us to guide, sustain and carry us through.” Grace L. Faus

I turn to God: Love, Wisdom, Life, and I find hope, strength, and joy for my journey. Thank you, God. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine, affirmation, gratitude, and release (4 steps).}

Feb 13 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“...more light comes to them that obey what light they have.” Fannie B. James

When I do my best, I grow and learn to do things even better. When I operate with integrity with what I know, I then learn more and achieve even more. By following the light I have now, I move into more light and my life just gets better and better.

{Today’s prayer features affirmation.}.

Feb 14 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Love becomes a vital force, a bond between all peoples, transforming not only individual lives but the world.” Elizabeth S. Lamb

Dear God, I give thanks for the love that you are, the love that is the substance of all reality, the love that is perfect and that harmonizes all that it is offered to It. As I love, I express Truth, and I experience miracles. And so it is.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 15 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Jesus...was showing us not what he personally could do, but what divine Presence and Power, divine Love and Truth, can do in humanity.” Fannie B. James

Jesus taught, lived, and shared love. As we follow his example and live in the power of love, we bring hope and healing to our world and we experience joy in abundance. And so it is.

{Today’s prayer features affirmation and release. (2 steps)}

Feb 16 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Today I rejoice in knowing that God is my immediate and abundant supply. I trust [God] for my every need.” Nona Brooks

Source of all good, I trust you to supply all my needs, to lead me toward my highest good, to bless my life abundantly and continually. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine, affirmation, and release. (3 steps)}

Feb 17 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“[Jesus seems to be saying to us], ‘if you see good in me, trace it back of my personality, to the One Source of good which is universal, therefore, is for all alike. As I manifest this good, so may you. Greater works you shall do, all by the One Power.’” Fannie B. James

Jesus didn’t just show us what he was capable of, but what we all are capable of; we are each capable of knowing our unity with God, of loving our neighbors, and of being healers in the world. Let us know and demonstrate this truth today. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features denial, affirmation, recognition of the Divine, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 18 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“I feel compelled to express the good, to radiate love and joy to my world.” Vernon Shields

God is good; indeed, God is all Goodness. I Am part of God, one with God. God is my Source and my Substance. And so it is that I not only deserve good in my life, but my life is good, is an expression of divine goodness. Since God’s Good is the Truth of my being, I express good to the world. Love, joy, peace, hope, confidence, generosity, compassion, kindness, and wisdom are blessings I cherish and blessings I gladly share. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features affirmation, recognition of the Divine and unity with It, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 19 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“How easy...to find and lay our foundation. It is God with us, and through us, above and below us. God everywhere present. ‘All in all.’” Fannie B. James

God’s allness is the good news we share. There is but one Source, one Power, one Presence, and so it is that the Source supplies me, the Power expresses through me, the Presence includes me. There is One Life and each individual life is an expression of the One. I Am part of God, and this awareness brings such peace and joy. God is Good. God is All. Therefore, in Truth, all is well. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 20 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“There is no death. All is boundless, endless, omnipresent Life... For it is a law as universal as the presence of God in nature, that out of what the world falsely calls death there is always evolved a higher form and order of life.” Warren Felt Evans

Grief is an expression of love and a normal human experience. We can miss our departed loved ones, but let not our grief be based in fear. We can miss the physical presence of dear ones, but let us remember that the Life that expressed through and as them is whole and eternal. They are not lost, nor are they in any trouble. They simply are beyond our physical sight. They remain in our hearts. They remain part of God. They are, as we are, part of the One and the One is universal and everlasting. Life is endless, and so let us rejoice.

{Today’s prayer features denial, affirmation, recognition of the Divine and unity with It, and gratitude. (5 steps)}

Feb 21 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“We think of God as Source and Cause of all things; not making things of nothing, but of [God’s] own Life and Being, this Great Mother-Father God brings forth all the forms of Life.” Fannie James

God is Creator. God is the “Stuff” from which creation is created. God is, then, also what has been created. Creator - Creative Action - Creation. Mind - Idea - Expression. We are, therefore, part of God...created by God and of God, we are some of the countless ways that God chooses to express. Let us live with joy and love and confidence as the children of God that we are, made by, of, and for the purpose of expressing God. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 22 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“See yourself as God sees you - pure, innocent, ageless, in [the divine] image and likeness.” Karl Kopp

God made us and made us from God’s Self and for the purpose of expressing God. No wonder scripture tells us that God looked at creation and called it very good. May we choose to remember and live as if we are, indeed, very good. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, intention, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 23 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“God is the beginning of all things...Everything that lives and moves, begins its life in God-Life.”
Fannie B. James

My life is an expression of divine Life. I am forever part of God. God is love. God is All Good. God is Life. God is infinite. I Am, then, Eternity having an experience of time; I Am an individuation of the one, perfect, universal Power. What God is, I Am in potential, in Truth, in being. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, and release. (4 steps)}

Feb 24 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Faith is the balance of reason, feeling, and intuitive knowing. The whole being feels that conditions are being divinely adjusted. It is important to know how to be definite; and then how to release human, detailed concepts. The release is done with faith in the perfect action of divine Wisdom and Power...Our acceptance of this permits us to relax tensions, thus opening the way for the clear action of divine Power.” Helen Zagat

God, with your help, I release anxieties today and will trust that all things work together for my good. I allow what is highest and best for me to unfold in divine order. I relax and allow blessings to manifest in the best possible way. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine, affirmation, and release. (3 steps)}

Feb 25 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“God is the Source of good. God is the only source of good. God is the source of good only, nothing else but good can come from God.” Fannie B. James

God is good. I Am part of God. Therefore, “there is good for me and I ought to have it.” I expect and accept joy and fulfillment in my life. I trust that my needs are being met. God is my Source and my Source is unlimited. And so it is that I am most thankful.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, gratitude, and release. (5 steps)}

Feb 26 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“...life is omnipresent - it fills all space. There is nothing outside of it. Indeed, there is no outside. There is but one Life. This Life is the universal Principle of Being that we call God.” Helen Wilmans

I am in God. There is nothing beyond God. God is All-in-all. God is the fabric of my life and being. And so it is that blessings abound. I receive them with gratitude. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, gratitude, and release. (5 steps)}

Feb 27 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“What is the difference between heaven and hell? Heaven is where God’s presence is recognized as ‘all in all.’ Hell is where God’s presence is not recognized. Both are within us.” Fannie B. James

God is. God is All. God is everywhere fully present. Heaven is where God abides, and God abides everywhere. My experience of heaven, therefore, is simply knowing God’s nearness and communing with God. Hell is the experience of feeling separate from God, but since it is impossible to be separate from God, heaven is the true state and I can enter it at will, thank Heaven!

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, affirmation, and gratitude. (4 steps)}

Feb 28 Daily Prayer by Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

“Our bodies may change and we may leave them to take up other abodes, but the divine self goes on forever.” Fenwicke Holmes

Life loves me and knows itself through me and is made manifest as me. This physical body will change over time (and has), but Life is perfect and everlasting. God is the truest me of me, and my truest me is endless. In this, I rejoice. Amen.

{Today’s prayer features recognition of the Divine and unity with It, gratitude, and release. (4 steps)}

Notice the various combination of these steps in February's prayers:

Recognition of the Divine
Acknowledgment of unity with the Divine
Denial of there being anything to oppose God
Affirmation of the good (or clear intention to achieve something good)
Gratitude
Release

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Gratitude
Release

Divine Scientists Quoted This Month

Elisabeth S. Lamb, her spiritual articles appeared in Divine Science publications
Fannie Brooks James (featured in half the daily entries), early D.S. pioneer, sister of Nona Brooks
Fenwicke Holmes, Protestant minister and Divine Science minister, author, brother of Ernest Holmes
Grace L. Faus, pioneered the First Divine Science Church of Washington, DC.
Helen Zagat, Divine Science minister, author of Faith & Works
Irwin Gregg, one of the founders of the Divine Science Federation International
Karl Kopp, Divine Science minister
Max Ballard, D.S. minister, served a center in D.C., pioneered churches in Colorado and Missouri
M. John Murray, Murray had been a Roman Catholic priest before being attracted to metaphysics. He studied with Emma Curtis Hopkins and was ordained by Nona Brooks into the ministry of Divine Science. In 1906 he started the Church of the Healing Christ in NYC
Nona Brooks, early leader of the Divine Science movement
Vernon Shields, a long-term D.S. leader in Minneapolis

Other Metaphysicians Quoted This Month

Helen Wilmans, teacher of Mental Science
Warren Felt Evans, early New Thought writer. Protestant minister who became a Swedenborgian and who was also influenced by the teachings of Mental Science

Spiritual Leaders to Think about in February

Martin Buber (1878-1965)— Jewish philosopher and theologian. Buber had a strong impact in reminding Christianity of its Jewish origins. He wrote that Jesus exemplified the highest ethical and spiritual ideals of Judaism. He was a champion of interfaith dialogue. He was influenced by the Hasidic movement in Eastern Europe and he believed that Jews and Arabs could find a just way to live together.

Helen Schucman (1909 – 1981) – a professor of clinical psychology at Columbia University in NYC for 18\ years (retiring in 1976). Faculty meetings were increasingly acrimonious and Helen and her friend and colleague, Bill Thetford were beginning to dread them. Bill said to Helen, “There must be another way.” Soon after, Helen started receiving “inner dictation” (which she believed was coming from Jesus himself) and she started writing it down. The result is *A Course in Miracles*. The Course encourages people to love, forgive, believe in the absolute goodness and lovingness of God, and to release fear. By following the *Course’s* guidelines, students of the Course believe that inner peace and lasting joy are possible. The *Course* seems to blend therapeutic principles, Christian verbiage, and Eastern philosophy. It can be (and is) practiced by people of various faith traditions (and none). One of ACIM’s most famous quotes is: **“Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God.”**

Brother Lawrence (1614 – 1691) – at about the age of 40, former soldier turned valet “Nicholas Herman” joined the Carmelite order in France and would then be known as “Lawrence of the Resurrection” or “Brother Lawrence.” He was a simple, barefoot monk. He spent most of his monastic career working in the monastery kitchen, and in his final years repaired sandals (a barefoot monk repairing sandals so others could walk in comfort was apparently very in character for Brother Lawrence). He was known for his peaceful demeanor and happy nature. He developed a form of praying from the heart, of being in constant communion with the divine, that he called “practicing the presence of God.” People would write to him or visit him for spiritual guidance. After Lawrence died, Father Joseph de Beaufort gathered many of Lawrence’s letters and published them as *The Practice of the Presence of God, which is a text still appreciated by Protestants and Catholics alike*.

Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804) - born in Prussia and became a professor of logic and metaphysics. He separated the historical Jesus and the mystical Christ.

Absolom Jones (1746 – 1818) - a former slave that would become the first African American Episcopal Priest in the newly formed United States of America. Jones preached that God was a loving Parent who always took the side of “the oppressed and distressed.”

St. Valentine (d. 269)—Though St. Valentine has long since been removed from the lists of ‘official’ saints, Valentine’s Day has been taken over by the greeting card industry and become fixed in the popular calendar of most people. It seems to have its origins in England, where it was noted that birds began to pair and mate around the feast of St. Valentine. The original Valentine was likely a Christian priest in Rome who was beheaded for refusing to renounce his faith. He gave his heart to God, his divine lover.

James A. Pike (1913 – 1969) - early proponent of ordination of women, racial desegregation, and the acceptance of LGBT people in the Church. He was the Bishop of California in The Episcopal Church. He held two law degrees from Yale and a seminary degree from Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Pike invited Martin Luther King Jr. to speak at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1965 following his march to Selma. After his son’s untimely death, Pike became interested in the paranormal (he even tried to reach his late son through psychics). He died in the Israeli desert while researching a book he wanted to write (coincidentally, about Jesus wandering in the desert). His rented car got stuck and he and his wife Diane tried to walk to safety, but were farther away from any community than they realized. While wandering lost in the desert, Pike fell down a steep canyon where he died. Diane found help and survived.

Giordano Bruno (1548 – 1600) - taught that God is everywhere imminent throughout the universe. Bruno was an Italian poet and philosopher who wrote, “**God is the Principle of unity in all activity and is the Principle of Oneness...**” Referring to divine Mind, he held that Mind and matter are one.

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)— Abolitionist. Born into slavery, Douglass managed to escape to the North and freedom. There he became a champion of the abolitionist movement as he lectured across the United States and Europe. He was noted for his amazing oratorical skills. Although a lay preacher in the AME Zion church, he became increasingly critical of the silence of much of Christianity regarding slavery.

Apostle Matthias – an apostle chosen by the other apostles (rather than by Jesus) to replace Judas Iscariot.



HOW SHALL WE PRAY?
Nona Brooks
(from Short Lessons in Divine Science)

Purpose: To show why we pray and the best method of prayer.

A new conception of God calls for a new method of prayer. We no longer feel that we must overcome God's reluctance, but rather that we are to lay hold of [God's] willingness. More willing is [God] to give than we are to receive. In order, then, to learn how to pray, let us turn to our Basis, Omnipresence. This means God everywhere; therefore, God includes me. I can say with authority, "I am in God and God is in me. Therefore, I share God-Being, God-Mind, God-Life." "All mine is thine, saith the Lord." By sharing Himself with us God gives us every good gift. Before we call, [God] has supplied. God is Abundance.

If I seem to lack any good thing it is because I have not believed fully in God's immediate Presence. God is doing His part. I do not need to beg or to ask [God] to do more. But I must do my part. I must train my thought to recognize steadfastly the immediacy and fullness of God's Presence.

I must not permit an opposing thought to stay. What is the commonest opposing thought? It is fear; for fear denies the presence of God. Hence, we must not permit fear thought to stay for a moment. We can put it out by denying it, and also by substituting for fear its opposite, conscious unity, love; by affirming, "I do not fear, for God is here this moment," and by repeating this statement with positiveness until all fear goes.

Inharmony of any kind, sickness or lack, shows that we are ignoring God's presence. Let us affirm that which is consistent with God-Presence; health, ever-present, changeless health; supply, ever-present, abundant supply.

But this is not all of prayer; in fact, it is the lesser part. Prayer is active communion. There is no passivity or resignation in prayer. When we have prayed, let us answer our own prayer. God has answered it before we called. Let us affirm the presence of All-Good. Our affirmations are for the purpose of clearing our mentality of wrong conceptions and of establishing within it the certainty of God--health, abundance, power, joy.

We bring our own prayers to fulfillment by living them out in our lives. Let me illustrate: An unhappy condition exists between me and a friend of long standing. It hurts. I learn by turning to my Basis that I can right it by prayer. I deny separation in God-Presence, and affirm, that as children of God, we share His Divine nature and are therefore loving and kind always. I make this prayer once a day or as often as opportunity offers. Now for the answering of this prayer within myself. I must watch my thinking between my prayers, that it keeps true to the prayer. I must let no thought of anger, fear, or hurt stay in my thinking. Perfect Love, which I have affirmed, and which is the Truth of God and of myself, casts out the opposites. I have prayed for perfect love. I must demonstrate it in thought and deed. This is the royal road to heaven--harmony of living.

After praying and living quietly the love prayed for, there usually comes an opportunity to serve the friend; to do something kind for him or her. I must do it with joy and without ostentation of self-consciousness. If the service meets with rebuff, I will not allow myself to be discomfited, but I will persist in my attitude of love, remembering that, "Love endureth all things, thinketh no evil"-- conquers every adverse condition.

True prayer which consists of right thinking and right living, never fails. It corrects our mistakes, makes us healthful, happy, more loving and more efficient; it brings realization of Good along many lines. Praying does all of this by bringing to us a deeper and clearer realization of God-Presence. Through this realization we are uplifted, purified, glorified; we radiate God-Qualities. Our lives are answered prayers. Our word and our work go out into the world from the radiant Center of Truth, to uplift, to bless, to heal.

Notes



Divine Science Statement of Being

God is all, both invisible and visible.
One Presence, One Mind,
One Power is all.

This One that is all is perfect life, perfect love, and perfect substance.

*[We are] the individualized expression of God and [are] ever one with this perfect life, perfect love, and perfect substance.

*Man is...and is...