

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON III

EXACT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

The literal meaning of the name Divine Science is organized knowledge of the nature of God. Let us think about some of the ways we may obtain this knowledge.

If I were to ask you, “What is God?” you might answer, “God is Spirit,” or “God is Life,” or perhaps, “God is Creator.” Each of us might answer in a different way as the possibilities are endless. Whatever your answer, you would come to see, however, that you have not really defined God; you have only found a synonym for Him.

This discovery discourages some people, making them agnostics, or doubters. When they find that they cannot fit God into a neat, precise definition, they tend to give up and decide that he cannot be known for certain.

As a starting point, we can see that there must be some invisible “something” in our universe out of which all visible, tangible things come. We can call this the Source, or Spirit. Pure Spirit, absolute, changeless, and eternal is a good place to begin. We can say that infinite Spirit is God. Can we say more? Yes, we can say much more! We must ask ourselves next: God is Spirit, expressing or becoming known to His creation, and to you and to me, as what?

Now we are in the realm of infinite possibilities. There are many ways to find the attributes of this God whom we cannot precisely define, and we can come closer to Him in this way than we ever could by the means of intellectual definition. We can come to know our Divine Father/Mother very well indeed, if we can learn to recognize those qualities and attributes through which God expresses. We shall become fully conscious of the Divine Presence; we shall listen to His voice wherever and whenever He speaks, if we know where to look and to listen.

THE NATURE OF GOD

We have a thousand ways to find some of the channels through which God moves into self-expression. Here are a few that may help us greatly to understand the nature of the Omnipresence from which we came and in which we dwell:

- The Bible
- Natural science
- Intuition
- Reason
- Personal experience
- Collective human experiences
- Mankind’s habitual ideals and aspirations

All these point us, in their various ways, toward the awareness of these truths:

- A creation proves a creator.
- The creation partakes of the nature of its creator.
- Every manifestation on this planet is the expression of the great Universal Mind, the Cosmic Thinker, which expresses Itself in forms harmonious with Its nature and purpose.
- Since love, beauty, and truth give people their greatest satisfaction, these qualities must be an essential part of our true spiritual nature.

Do you see what this implies? It means that God is our Source and that our nature must be like our Source. It is natural for us to be whatever God is.

We could make an unending list of the attributes of God for He is forever presenting Himself to us in new and wonderful ways. In our next lesson, we shall take up some of the basic attributes inherent in the divine nature. Whatever inherency, attribute, or quality we may identify, however, we can be certain that it is always GOOD.

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT GOOD

Deep within the mind and heart of everyone, through the ages, has been the desire to find and experience that which adds to the quality of life; that which meets and fulfills a present need; that which adds value to the future; that which promises improvement in one's circumstances and surroundings. Indeed, each living creature has this fundamental drive toward that which will bring into its life some kind of good. Whence comes this desire to bring forth goodness that we find in all creation? It can only come from the Creator. Thus, we know that God is the nature and substance of the good we seek. We can say with assurance that God is GOOD.

THE MEANING OF OMNIPRESENCE

As children, we may have asked ourselves and others, "Where is God?" Often the answer has been one that put God out of His creation in some far-off place of perfection. But those of the highest spiritual vision have taught that God is everywhere, indeed, Omnipresence Itself. Nona Brooks expressed this truth in the clearest possible terms:

- God is everywhere, therefore God is here.
- What God is, is everywhere, therefore what God is, is here.

If we see that this is true, we can see that the opposite must be false. Since eternal life is here, death must be an illusion. Since love is here, fear or hate must be transient. Since good is here, we see evil only because we do not see clearly; we see in part, and misunderstand what we see. We are misled by what appears to be contrary to good.

GOOD IS EVERYWHERE

Good is everywhere, therefore Good is here. Are you willing to act as if this were true? Are you willing to base your thoughts, your words, and your actions upon the principle of goodness? Can you see God expressing some part of His nature through every human circumstance and experience?

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Malinda E. Cramer observed: “The fundamental truths of what is known in the present day as Divine Science are shown by history to have been largely understood by philosophers of all ages. . . . While they mainly agree that all reality is in the Spirit of what they see and that which is visible is a manifestation within and of Spirit, they have failed to apply their view of this Truth to the healing of the disease. But down through the ages, those who have had the understanding of what Truth is, knew they had dominion over all conditions. They knew they were free.”

Our part is to learn to see what is really here in truth, to learn to distinguish between appearances and reality. (Reality is used here in the sense of being true to the divine idea within all things.) How can we do this? First, we choose to accept that the omnipresence of God is the truth. This is not difficult if we really think enough, praying for faith and understanding. Second, we must live and speak always in accordance with this higher vision.

The second part, the doing of it, is the hard part. It is here that you will find our method of affirmation and meditation valuable. When you understand the truth of Omnipresence, you will see that you do not have to ask God for anything. He has already given us all that He is, and all good is included within God. We need instead to open ourselves to our true nature, to those qualities He has already implanted within us, knowing that when we do this we shall have the answer to our prayer, whatever it may be.

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

There is a very simple technique for beginning this opening of yourself to your true nature. Take a simple statement, “God is everywhere, therefore God is here.” It is easy to memorize. You will find that you can repeat it anywhere at any time. You can say it aloud during your meditation period. You can say it quietly as you go about your work. You can affirm it as you ride to town and home again, as you are falling asleep at night, and before you get up in the morning. Build a rhythm of it into your subconscious until it is on the tip of your tongue at all times.

REALIZATION

Suddenly one day you will find that you not only believe it to be true, but that you know that it is true. This deep inner knowing, beyond doubt, is what we call realization, and from realization of the Omnipresence all “miracles” spring.

Before you achieve this deep inner knowing, however, your firmness of purpose in holding true to your affirmation may be tested. Experiences may come that appear to prove the opposite of the truth you are declaring. Conditions may seem to point to a complete contradiction of what you believe. The worse the situation looks from the human viewpoint, however, the more you must keep firm to your affirmation. Hold to it; keep repeating it even though you feel you are doing it mechanically. Remember, you are not saying it to make it come true; it is already true. You are bringing your own mentality into a realization of this truth, and removing your own resistance to its harmonious action. It is a living power.

MENTAL DISCIPLINE

There is another side to true thinking. You must refuse to think its opposite. You need practice in refraining from thinking or speaking of fear, suspicion, and antagonism. You need not describe illness, accidents, and disasters, or any other appearance which belongs to incorrect human concepts. This may sound difficult, but constant practice makes it easier; many people living today have achieved it.

Avoid “temptation”. Don’t turn on your radio or television newscast more than once a day and read the daily newspaper for information only. While watching TV, keep your channel selector with you and use it freely to switch off negative propaganda. Look, listen, and read with an active dynamic attitude rather than a passive, sponge-like acceptance. Skip negative and gruesome details. If a friend brings you a piece of negative gossip, a tale of illness, disaster, or suspicion, look interested, appear sympathetic, but set your affirmations going through your mind. No one can pour a thought into your mind while you are pouring truth out of it, any more than one can pour water into a pitcher while you are pouring water out of it.

This is not a hard-hearted attitude. In so doing, you are not only protecting yourself from negative suggestion, you are surrounding the narrator as well with thoughts of the truth of his being.

We earnestly suggest that you put your affirmation to work this week. Make up your own if you like, or use the one given in your assignment.

MAY THE AWARENESS OF GOD’S OMNIPRESENCE DWELL IN YOU!

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON III

Review Chapter 1 and study Chapter 2 of *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*. Give a great deal of thought to Chapter 2 as it provides an essential basis for this course.

Affirmation: GOD IS EVERYWHERE, THEREFORE GOD IS HERE.
WHAT GOD IS IS EVERYWHERE, THEREFORE_____.

Complete your own affirmation from below according to your need:

- ___ LOVE IS HERE (in inharmonious conditions)
- ___ FAITH IS HERE (in moments of fear)
- ___ WISDOM IS HERE (when faced with a decision)
- ___ LIFE IS HERE (when strength is needed)
- ___ HEALTH IS HERE (when feeling ill)
- ___ PEACE IS HERE (when nervous or upset)
- ___ SUPPLY IS HERE (when you seem to lack)

Bible Quotation: “One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”
(Ephesians 4:6)

Questions:

1. What is the literal meaning of the term Divine Science?
2. Give the meaning of “omnipresence” in not more than five sentences.
3. What are some of the channels through which God expresses His nature?
4. What is the origin of our desire for good?
5. Why do we see so much evil about us?
6. Write a paragraph of not more than 50 words on the reason for the use of affirmations.