

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON IV

THE INHERENCIES AND QUALITIES OF GOD

Divine Science teaches that creation is God in Self-manifestation. The basic substance out of which God creates is called Spirit. While Spirit is not precisely defined, we understand that Spirit is invisible in its original state and it manifests or takes form as a visible creation. Spirit and Substance are one. We do not use the term Substance in the sense of material substance, nor as being opposed to “matter.” In human consciousness there has been a tendency to separate Spirit and substance in thought, falsely reasoning that if Spirit is godly and real, then “matter” must be its opposite.

Today we are seeing the remarriage of Spirit and “matter” in nuclear physics and quantum mechanics, as well as in spiritual thought. Scientists have discovered that there is no such thing as solid matter. The patterns of our visible universe consist of untold trillions of minute waves of energy called quarks, which yet cohere together in universal order. Science has discovered that energy and “matter” are not opposites; we can say, in a sense, that energy is fluid “matter” and that “matter” is frozen energy. One is thus resolvable into the other. Albert Einstein spoke of matter as “energy reduced to the point of visibility.”

Spirit, or Substance, is the very stuff of God and is pure, whole, and perfect, regardless of its appearance. We know that in our visible world the form of a material may be unpleasant or repulsive without affecting its essential atoms. There is no difference in the atoms of roses or garbage.

Malinda E. Cramer wrote: “Infinite Mind moves upon its idea, which is also Itself, and the thought is born in and of the idea. And through thought is the divine idea of creation solved and its possibilities made manifest, imaged and shadowed forth in examples, viz: in bodily form, in form of word, form of deed, form of feeling.”

THE INHERENCIES OF GOD

Because of the limited, manlike images often associated with beliefs about God, some people prefer to drop the word “God” and look for substitute terms. For the purposes of this course, we retain the word but use it in the sense of Universal Mind. God is the Source of all, the original energy and intelligence from which all creation comes forth and by which, and in which, all creation is supported. “In him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28) In Divine Science, then, we see this Source bringing forth visible creation out of Its own Being, out of Its own Mind-substance, according to the eternal ideas It holds in Mind.

Creation and our scientific knowledge of it give evidence of the Infinite Intelligence within and through it. We call the field of Intelligence, Mind. Throughout creation we find Mind present; we find that the higher the degree of mind that is expressing, the greater the intelligence that is manifested through the myriad forms of life. We accept the Source as All-Intelligent Mind, everywhere present and active in its creation.

Looking at creation, we find that ideas are involved in it everywhere. We may think of creation as Idea with all its sub-ideas. This Infinite Mind Source is able to perceive Its own ideas; it is Wisdom. Wisdom is the capacity to see ideas and to see the highest and best means of expressing them.

We see evidence all about us in our visible universe of ideas manifesting in certain fixed patterns, so we know this Source can bring forth patterns of Its ideas. We call these idea patterns Knowledge. This Source knows Its Idea and images it forth. An image is a pattern in mind.

The Source also knows how to bring forth the patterns of its ideas in visible form. It understands how to produce and apply. It is Understanding.

Power is the ability to produce. We know this Source is the power which produces or brings forth Its ideas into actuality.

This Source is active; nothing in creation is static or still. Everything is in a state of vibration. When this motion seems self-determined, or from within, we call it Life. This Source is one Life, the action of the Creator throughout Its creation.

We can also think of this Source as Joy. We view Joy as the consciousness of fulfillment, a sense of being filled and overflowing with good. It is not the joy of sensation or possession, but the pure joy of being alive and aware. This sense of overflowing energy and well-being which we call Joy comes from our Basic Source and Creator.

We have been describing the inherencies, or essential attributes of Being, which we studied in our last lesson, saving Love until last. Love is a word of many human meanings; for some love has unpleasant or destructive associations. Personal love can be a bondage or limitation. We are using Love in the universal sense. True Love is conscious unity or oneness. This universal Source is conscious of Its own Self as One. Although it manifests in infinite forms and modes, It is always conscious of Its essential oneness or the unity of all Its parts.

You are made of many members, each with many parts: your cells, tissues, nerves, muscles and bones, as well as your thoughts, feelings, sensations and actions. Yet you are conscious of yourself as one entity. God knows you as a part of Himself in the same sense in which you know your arm is a part of you.

Judging from human behavior, we may find it difficult at times to believe that the Source of creation is Love, but “man’s inhumanity to man” comes from his sense of separation or lack of unity with the whole and with its parts.

THE INHERENCIES OF YOU

The Bible tells us that humankind is created in the image and likeness of God, and has been granted dominion on earth (Genesis 1:26-28). This means that we are created out of God’s own

being and substance, according to our Creator's own Idea. We derive our nature, inwardly and outwardly, from the Divine Source of all. It also means that we share in God's creative law, forming the experiences and conditions of our everyday lives through the mental law of cause and effect.

- You have the capacity to be wise; you are wisdom in action.
- You can perceive ideas. You have the capacity to know; you are knowledge in action.
- You can think and make mental patterns of the ideas you see; you are understanding in action. You have the capacity to understand. You understand how to apply knowledge and bring forth your patterns into visibility.
- You have the capacity to produce; you are power in action. You can transform the ideal into actual.
- You have the capacity to move, to do, and to act; you are life in action.
- You have the capacity to feel joy and experience fulfillment; you are joy in action.
- You have the capacity to love; you are love in action.
- You can feel your oneness with the parts and your oneness with the Whole. You have the capacity to feel at one with your Source, and this is Life's greatest attainment.

We gave up human opinion, based on sense of evidence, of visible objects being solid matter, and accepted the truth of their vibrational, sub-atomic nature. We must also be willing to surrender our human opinions based on the outward, separate appearance of things and perceive the spiritual nature of all that is. All creation is Spirit in action. Earth, people, animals, food, weather, climate and altitude are all expressions of the One.

However another seems to you, "rose" or "garbage" from a human viewpoint, affirm the spiritual nature behind the appearance. Think of yourself as a son of God. Think of your parents, your family, your friends, and all persons, not as they seem to be to human eyes, but as they are in God. Bring your thought into agreement with God's thought of them. Know that they are in the nature and substance of God, and that what is true of God is true of them, of you and me, and of all that is.

This recognition of the spiritual nature in each one is called "saluting the Christ." If you will make this your daily practice, the wholeness and perfection of God's idea will come forth into visibility in your life and in the lives of others. The consciousness of the Christhood of each one is the Universal Christ Consciousness which heals mind, body and affairs, and through which God, the Good, becomes visible and tangible in our lives.

THE QUALITIES OF GOD

In addition to the seven inherencies discussed above, there are many qualities that we assign to this Infinite Mind-Source. We speak of the changelessness and boundlessness of God. We speak of Peace, Beauty, Truth, Order, Harmony, Principle, Law, etc. as qualities of Infinite Being. We know that these are not separate qualities, but names that we give to the infinite aspects of the one Divine Nature.

THE DIMENSIONS OF SPIRIT-SUBSTANCE

The one basic Spirit-Substance manifests itself, or becomes visible, in infinite forms. Because God is the infinite and unlimited, that which cannot be defined or measured, we cannot really assign properties to Spirit-Substance. We can, however, become aware of and recognize the dimensions of Spirit, dimensions that are without the limits of material measurements.

- ***Oneness:*** God is the one Infinite Being. All that He brings forth are expressions of this oneness.
- ***Truth:*** The true Idea, the Christ, forever inheres within universal Spirit. When we work with Truth, we are working with Spirit. We are truth in action.
- ***Righteousness:*** Every true idea has its own right, harmonious way of coming forth into manifestation. Spirit expresses or comes into visibility in accordance with the laws of Its own nature. We are righteousness in action.
- ***Hereness:*** This has nothing to do with geography or climate. If God is ever present, then God is here. You cannot get out of the dimension of Hereness. It is the Divine Place.
- ***Nowness:*** Nowness is consciousness. You cannot be conscious yesterday; you cannot be conscious tomorrow. Their only reality is the bringing of them into the nowness of your consciousness. Now is the one and only time there is, which is God's Present. It is the Divine Time.
- ***Allness:*** In Divine Science, we affirm that "God is All, both invisible and visible." The New Testament declares in several passages that God is All-in-all. Also, Ephesians 1:10 refers to God's "plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."
- ***Wholeness:*** Everything that has being partakes of wholeness. You are a spiritual being, altogether whole. Regardless of our degree of unfoldment, health is our natural state of being. The boy is as whole as the wise sage. The kindergartner is as whole as the college student. Indeed, wholeness is a dimension of all being.

THE MEANING OF HEALING TREATMENT

As we use the term in Divine Science, a treatment is an extended affirmation. Just as you have found affirmations useful in your thought training, you will find that a well memorized treatment such as the following will be like a "life-preserver" in times of emergency. Please memorize it thoroughly. Planted deep in your subconscious, it will replace many of the erroneous thoughts and beliefs that have been allowed to accumulate there in the past. It will also be a cornerstone of a dynamic and active faith for the future.

TREATMENT

I accept the omnipresence of God without reserve. Since God is all there is, there is no place for anything unlike God. There is no place for sin, sickness, or lack in God's Presence and His Presence fills all.

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON IV

Study Chapters 3 and 4 in *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*.

Affirmation: I AM SPIRIT, ETERNAL AND PERFECT.

Bible Quotation: "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever." (Romans 11:36)

Questions:

1. What is Substance?
2. According to Divine Science, what is treatment?
3. What are the inherencies of God?
4. Since creation is like its Creator, are these inherencies present in everything around us?
5. What are the qualities of God?
6. Since I am made in the image of God, are these qualities mine also?
7. What are the dimensions of Spirit-Substance?