

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON VII

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

In our lesson on the trinity, we emphasized threeness in our thinking. In this lesson, we are going to emphasize oneness. It is impossible to overemphasize our oneness with God, our oneness with each other, and our oneness with all of God's Universe. That there is multiplicity in unity we do not deny; however, our attention may become so fixed on the infinite variety of form and shape in the outer world that the real underlying unity may escape us. It is easier to see what seems to be our separateness from other people and the universe, than to look through appearances to our essential oneness.

Your hand is a good example of this basic unity. Your fingers are individualizations of your hand. They are separate and free at one end so that they may function. At the wrist, however, they are one and inseparable.

Back of every hand that has ever been, or shall ever be, is the "hand" idea. Back of every individual is the "man" idea, which we call Christ.

When Jesus said to his followers, "I am in the Father, and you in me, and I in you," he was not speaking of a man in a physical body. He was referring to the universal Divine Idea in all people. In Divine Science, we make a definite distinction between Jesus and the Christ. Jesus was the man who lived in Nazareth two thousand years ago. Christ is the eternal God Self indwelling each one. The Christ is the Son, the Divine Idea of man forever held in God Mind. The Christ Mind is the action of the Divine Mind through and within Its Idea. The Christ Life brings forth the Christ Idea into its perfect and complete expression.

CHRIST IN YOU, YOUR HOPE OF GLORY

The Christ in Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God; the Christ in you is also the Son of God. The Christ Mind in Jesus, and in you, is the Mind of God working in and through Its idea to bring It into full expression. The Christ Mind in you is one with the Christ Mind in all humanity, whether you realize it or not. This is the true basis of universal brotherhood.

If anyone's entire living was governed by his higher phase of mind, the Christ would be truly expressing through him or her. That individual could validly say, as Jesus did, "Not I, but the Father within me does the work." Jesus often spoke of himself as a son of man, and by this he seems to have meant his human personality. Just as often, though, he spoke of himself as the Son of God. When he did so, we believe he did not mean the personality of the man Jesus, beautiful and sublime though it was, but his true Self, the Christ, which he knew to be a direct expression of the Father, and as eternal and changeless as God.

JESUS THE CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth is held by Christian metaphysicians to be the first complete manifestation of the Christ. Traditional churches have tended to overemphasize the divinity of Jesus and to ignore

his humanity. Just the same, although Jesus was a man, let us also keep in mind that he was far more than an ordinary person, for he brought the divinity within him into full expression.

Also, when Jesus brought forth the fullness of the Christ bodily, and into human experience, he did not disappear from our universe. He exists today as a channel between Universal consciousness and personal consciousness. Through his death and resurrection, he established a spiritual “gulfstream” in race consciousness to which all may turn for spiritual transfusion.

Each of us, of course, lives and moves and has being in the Father, is always one with Him, and by turning within can commune and receive at any time. There are periods in every human life, however, when we have fallen so far into the pit of negative thinking and living that we feel unable to rise above the clouds of our own mental formulations. At such times, we can freely draw upon the healing and uplifting energies that Jesus (and all his sincere disciples, past and present) is continually releasing into human consciousness. “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (Jesus)

THE JESUS CHRIST PRINCIPLE

In the mystical teachings of the New Testament, we find the term Jesus Christ to be synonymous with the idea of perfect humanity. I AM THAT I AM was the song of Moses. JESUS CHRIST was the song of the first Christians. These terms are full of the inner meanings of life and are scientific in their power to transport eternal truth into the realm of manifestation. The Jesus Christ principle is the principle of making God manifest or visible, and is the name of the principle involved in all of our demonstrations.

THE TRINITY OF EXPRESSION

In Lesson V, in conjunction with Chapter 5 of the Textbook (especially pp. 60-68), you learned of trinities on both the universal and individual planes. Reread pp. 60-62 now, and note two very important trinities that help us to understand how the One manifests the Infinite Divine Nature. These trinities are:

- Spirit, living soul, and body: These are the three aspects of everything that comes forth into creation.
- Mind (Idea), thought, and word: Your thought is idea in action and your body is your thought-word made flesh.

Also reread p.63 in the Textbook, and read John 15:1-11. Note the parallels between Spirit, living soul, and body on the one hand and Vine, branches, and grapes in Jesus’ allegory on the other.

Jesus taught, further, “The Father works, and the Son sees what the Father does, and does it also.” You must also be conscious of God, if He is to work through you fully. Jesus is our true Wayshower in this respect. He lived in the consciousness of God Omnipresent at all times.

THE ESTABLISHED CONSCIOUSNESS

Our true goal is to dwell in the established consciousness of God's Presence and the underlying unity of all being. We urge you to use every possible device leading to such a realization. In addition to your regular prayer and meditation, you may put into use various figures of speech and poetic images which will help make it real to you. Many people, in picturing to themselves their relationship with God, think of themselves as a ray from the Central Sun, or as the fruit on the Tree of Life, or as a branch of the Vine, and so on. Whichever image gives you the strongest feeling of harmony and unity is the one for you.

After you have practiced faithfully for a time, this practice in feeling at one with all the universe, some amazing things will come to your attention. You will notice, one day, that cold winds no longer make you shiver, and that extreme summer heat no longer impresses you as unpleasant. You will exult with nature in a loud thunderstorm as much as on a mild, calm day. The foods you used to shy away from, you will now eat without the slightest fear. Noises that used to annoy you, you will no longer notice; when you lie down to relax, you will find that the barking of dogs, the noise of traffic, the shouting of the neighbor children at play, the insistent chirping of the crickets, no longer keep you from going to sleep. You are in harmony with all people and all things at last.

MAY THE WISDOM OF THE CHRIST ABIDE WITH YOU.

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON VII

Study pp. 139-145 of *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice* on Jesus and Christ. Look up the Bible quotations listed on p.140. Also read pp. 125-127.

Affirmation: I LIVE NOW BY THE LIFE THAT IS OMNIPRESENT AND FULL OF POWER. IN ALL THAT I DO THIS DAY, PERFECT MIND, EVER ACTIVE, THINKS ME, MOVES ME, AND LIVES ME AS PART OF ITSELF.

Bible Quotation: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." (John 1:1-3)

Questions:

1. What is the distinction between Jesus and the Christ?
2. Is the Christ within you just as It was in Jesus?
3. What do you understand the "Jesus Christ principle" to be (as a metaphysical term)?
4. What is the Law of Expression?
5. How do we know this earth is divine and perfect?
6. What is the work of individual thought?