

## **FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE**

### **LESSON X**

#### **THE LAW OF EXPRESSION**

Have you ever wondered why there seems to be such order and law operating in our natural world, and such confusion and disorder in humanity's individual experience?

The unvarying movement of heavenly bodies, the cycles of seasons, the unfolding of plant life from seed to grain and fruit bear witness to the order and regularity of nature. The unfailing dependability of natural law in the fields of chemistry, electricity, magnetism, and gravity is continual evidence to us that our universe is a great rhythmic organism based on universal law.

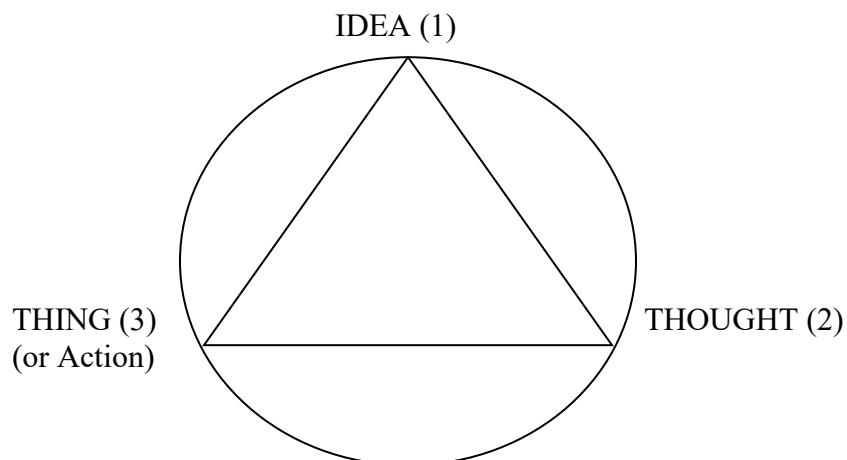
What of man himself? How can we explain the uncertainties and chaos in the world of human conditions and experiences? In order to see law in the midst of human events and circumstances, it is necessary for us to understand the creative process.

#### **THE LAW OF EXPRESSION**

Divine Mind is the origin of all things. The way in which Divine Mind creates is the unfailing law of the universe. Law is the creative nature of God in action.

We know that all things emerge from the invisible into the visible. This is the creative order. Ideas held in mind are always the beginnings of all external creations. Through consciousness, mind carries its images or thought pictures into visibility. This is the way of Universal Mind; it is also the way of the individual mind, yours and mine.

#### **THE TRINITY OF MIND MANIFEST**



Idea is the Spirit-Substance out of which Universal Mind forms its creation. Our inheritance from God is His own nature, His own substance, and His own creative Mind power. We are co-creators with God. We share the creative power to bring forth and carry out spiritual ideas

through consciousness. Does this help you to see why attention to any idea is the key to its coming forth?

Our own personal experiences are governed by law just as surely as the movements of the stars and the planets. Through individual consciousness, our images or thought pictures are carried into the visible world and become conditions and circumstances of our bodies and affairs. Inharmony and disorder follow only when we “misrepresent” the Divine Ideas that God Mind is always presenting to us.

How comforting it is to know that we are not at the mercy of “fate” or “blind chance.” We need never again fear “bad luck.” We know that every effect in our lives has its cause; our own mental images. By directing our thoughts, we discover that we can control our effects.

This knowledge brings individual responsibility. We can no longer blame our own painful experience on “bad luck.” We are free to progress and overcome by letting go of the mental images projecting the unwanted effects. We need not suffer the same negative experiences again.

Divine Science teaches that whatever comes to us in terms of experience, we have attracted to ourselves. Some of it we draw to ourselves as part of our spiritual education, as a child attracts the lessons needed. A part of it, however, does not really belong to us as children of God, but has resulted from our erroneous thoughts and actions.

If our thinking controls our experiences (and we know it does), and if we learn to control our thinking, how much simpler life is! We do not have to look about here and there to find the cause of our pain and discomfort. We need not look for someone on whom to place the blame. We dare not fill ourselves with self-pity. We need only to examine our own thoughts and beliefs. To improve conditions we need only to improve our thinking. It is as *simple* as that and as *difficult* as that! This is the law of the mental realm.

### THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT

Fortunately for us, there is a higher expression of law than the law of the mental realm. The law of the mind is expressed in Galatians 6:7: “You reap whatever you sow.” The Law of the Spirit supersedes this; the Law of the Spirit is given in John 3:6: “What is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Like begets like.

Our human thoughts or images make up our world of conditions. We determine what we experience by our thoughts, but no amount of wrong thinking can change what we really are in God Mind, or change the Christ Self within us. What we are belongs to the realm of Spirit; we are what God knows us to be. We cannot change, corrupt, or distort the Divine Idea within us.

### THE REAL SELF-IMAGE

By our habitual thinking, which must become subconscious as well as conscious, we can change what we see, or believe, but we can never change that which we eternally are. So far as my Being is concerned, it makes no difference what I think; only what God knows about me remains true and real. If I am wise, I will pause and ask myself in the midst of any difficult experience, “What

does God know about me?” Then, I will answer my own question. “God knows me as His own perfect Idea. I am His own child created for the express purpose of being a channel for His own nature.”

It is important to remember this in relation to the popular concept of “self-image development.” We are not born a blank with the need to develop a human self. We need to develop a good human “self-image” to function successfully on earth. If this self-image is to be valid, however, it must be based on the Divine Self within us that awaits our recognition.

The Law of the Spirit supersedes the mental law, just as the mental law supersedes the physical. The Law of the Spirit is universal and changeless. As Emmet Fox wrote, “Christ is the lord of karma.”

### THE LAW AS A TASKMASTER

The Law of Sowing and Reaping is a hard taskmaster to those who try to work against it. Isn't this a blessing? Our happiness lies in working together with God and keeping on the path of spiritual unfoldment. Isn't it a part of God's goodness to us that we are reminded when we wander from it? We do not get far off the path before we find ourselves in the brambles of painful experience. When we begin to feel uncomfortable, it is time to open our eyes and look about us. It is time to repent which means to think again, and make a real effort to get back to God. We should be grateful when pain or hard experiences force us to “come to ourselves.”

Although the Law of Sowing and Reaping is a taskmaster to those who work against it, it is a protection, a servant, and an inspiration to those who work with it. You are working hand in hand with the law when you are Godlike in your thoughts and actions. This is the easy, natural way.

### THE SUPREMACY OF GOOD

Far from being sinful and depraved by nature as some theologians teach, you are perfect and complete by nature, for you are made *in the image and likeness of God*. God's purpose in creating you is to express through you His own wisdom, His own love, His own power. The implications of this truth are tremendous. Think it through, for it is the key to spiritual dominion over all your world.

Since the truth of you is true, and your own erroneous beliefs about yourself are false, the moment you turn from those wrong concepts you begin to be freed from their negative effects. In Divine Science, we do not try to remove old mental images directly, but we replace them with new ones. The moment you replace fear with faith, you are freed from any negative experience which has started moving your way. You need never again be afraid of fear if you replace it with strong thoughts of faith and courage. You must keep the new thoughts firmly in your mind, however, and not allow the old ones to re-establish themselves in your mental realm.

Evil has no power over you. It has only the seeming power you give it by your attention. The power of good is the power inherent in creation, and is meant to be all-powerful in our everyday lives. Jesus taught us not to resist evil, but to overcome it with good. It is easier for us to work with the Law of Good than against it. Put it to the test.

### ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON X

Review Chapters 4 and 5 and read the sections on Atonement, Immaculate Conception, Heredity, and Original Sin on pp. 145-150 in *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*.

**Affirmation:** DIVINE LAW HAS PLACED ME WHERE I CAN SERVE BEST.

**Bible Quotation:** “We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.” (II Corinthians 10:4-5)

**Questions:**

1. What is the origin of all things?
2. Upon what standard does a Truth student learn to base his thinking, his actions, and his observations of people and outer affairs in general?
3. What is the work of thought?
4. What is the mental law?
5. Is the spiritual law more powerful than the mental law?
6. Why is it easier for one to express good than to express its opposite?
7. What is the purpose of creation?