

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON XIX

PATHWAY TO REALIZATION

Have you ever questioned the idea of linking religion and “success”? Thinking clearly from the principle of Omnipresence, we must conclude that the will to succeed is divinely and rightly planted in everyone’s heart. God’s will to bring His good ideas forth successfully into creation is individualized in each one. It is on the definition of “good” and of “success” that difficulties arise.

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

True success is the fulfilling of the purpose for which we are here. Why are we here? Are we here to make money and surround ourselves with material comforts? Are we here to make pleasure the one aim and purpose of our existence? Are we here to avoid anything that might be considered “unpleasant”? How does Divine Science answer this age-old question?

Since the purpose of the creation is to express the nature of its Creator, we find that God created each individual to express His nature in a distinctly unique way. We are here to express, manifest, and incarnate the ideas of God which are innately within us. We are here to recognize ourselves for what we are: sons and daughters of God; channels for the Divine Life; centers of Infinite Intelligence. Each of us has a specific place to fill in God’s plan: **WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE TRUE SENSE INsofar AS WE FULFILL GOD’S PURPOSE IN THAT PLACE.**

WHAT IS OUR PART?

Each one of us can receive direct guidance from God if we will lift our thoughts to the level on which He speaks, and truly learn to listen. God is ready and waiting to give us specific guidance in carrying out His purpose in us and for us. But we must be willing to make inner contact. We must turn to Him daily for inspiration and instruction, consciously opening ourselves to that inner Voice which is always speaking.

In Thessalonians 5:17, Paul declared: “Pray without ceasing.” As we maintain our attunement with the Divine Presence, we grow in our ability to bring forth God’s goodness through us, and this is true success. Through our active prayer life we become aware of God’s will for us, aware of our unique and special place in His universal plan. And, included with that plan are the ability, the strength, and the resources to fulfill the purpose to which we have been called.

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONALITY?

In metaphysical thought, a distinction is often made between “personality” and “individuality.” Various authors use the same terms differently, and also use different terms to convey the same meanings. This is a challenge that you can expect as you become more familiar with the literature of New Thought.

As the terms “personality” and “individuality” are used in Divine Science, however, we do not treat one as opposed to the other, nor do we maintain that the “higher self” and the “lower self” are at war. Some believe that the personality must be “crucified” in order to allow the individuality to come forth in the expression. All that is unlike God in our personalities must be “crucified,” or crossed out, but the personality of each of us has its place and work; and that place and that work are good.

When we speak of our individuality, we mean our true Self, the perfect idea held in God-Mind which is changeless and eternal. When we speak of our personality, we mean our present expression of our individuality. We can readily see that they are not at war. For example, the young sapling is a present expression of an oak tree nature. We can never bring forth the mature tree by destroying the sapling. It is a legitimate stage of unfoldment between the acorn and the oak. All of us have developed the ability to express certain of God’s ideas more fully than others. The sum of these developments is the “present personality” of each one of us.

Personality, then, in our usage of the term, is *a means* through which the individuality (the God-Idea) within you is unfolding into manifestation or visibility. To condemn the personality is to condemn a part of the divine plan of growth. Rather than deny personality, it is your work to lift it up, and keep it free from distorted or misconceived expressions. Dedicate your personality to the work of expressing the True Self that you are.

YOUR REALIZATION

For many weeks we have been talking about God, learning about God and our relationship to Him. We have made a beginning, but it is only the first step. Talking about God is not enough; accepting the Truth with your intellect is not enough. Now that you are beginning to see the Way, you are challenged to arise and follow that Way. Now that you know the road to take, you are challenged to get on your feet and walk that road. Our awareness of God’s Presence is the “pearl of great price” referred to in Jesus’ parable. Persistent practice, daily meditation and prayer, and constant recognition of the Divine Nature and Life of everyone and everything about you, as well as absolute integrity in word and deed, are essential steps to “true success.”

**MAY YOU ATTAIN A STEADY CONSCIOUSNESS
OF YOUR ONENESS WITH THE FATHER
AND YOUR UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL PART IN HIS UNIVERSAL PLAN.**

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON XIX

Study Chapter 11 of *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*.

Healing Affirmations:(By Malinda E. Cramer)

The salvation of Truth is mine now.

The Kingdom of God is in me now.

The all of heaven is at hand now.

I believe and practice Truth now.

I am free from the belief of sin now.
I am eternal Life, free from death now.
The Spirit of Life in Christ makes me free now.
I worship God in Spirit and in Truth now.
I know of no good that can be withheld now.
Faith is substance of things hoped for now.
I am living substance now.
I have come to the Christ, where all things are now ready for acceptance.

Bible Quotation: “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything.” (John 14:26)

Questions:

1. What is man?
2. What is man’s mission on earth?
3. What is individuality?
4. What is personality?
5. What is the “pearl of great price” that is so desirable?
6. What other factors besides intellectual acceptance are necessary if we are to attain realization?
7. What is true success?
8. What is true service?
9. Do you find Divine Science to be a logical, spiritual, satisfying religion? Explain why it is satisfying to you.
10. Have these lessons awakened your desire for more complete awareness?
11. Give thought to the course as a whole. Then determine which lesson helped you the most and explain why.