

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON XVII

OUR SOURCE AND THE LAW OF SUPPLY

As you look at the universe, can you doubt its abundance? Its billions of stars are beyond the ability of astronomers to count. There are more calcium atoms in your hand than there are grains of sand in all the seashores. Every thing that God has created manifests in unlimited abundance. Then, why do people experience lack?

People suffer lack because they do not know the source or nature of their supply. We cannot have the benefit of a principle on any consistent basis, until we recognize that principle, and apply the laws that govern its activity. Cave men could have had electric lights. The ancient Athenians could have televised their plays. In a similar way, the principle underlying supply was as true then as now, but people were ignorant of it.

OUR SOURCE OF SUPPLY

From where do you think your supply comes? Do you think it comes from your employer, or your investments? Do you think your prosperity depends upon favorable business conditions? These are channels through which supply flows to you and to everyone, but the Source and Substance of all supply is Spirit. The Power that created you is sustaining you.

The Omnipresence of God is as real in the realm of supply as in any other; God is, at all times, supplying us with the satisfaction of every need. If this seems difficult to accept, let us remember that all that is made, is made out of this invisible Spirit or God-Substance.

The substance of all form, of all that manifests outwardly, is the idea of that thing; the idea that is back of and determines the form. We previously noted that mind is the real nature of every living thing. Similarly, the idea that God is our supply is the very substance of our supply. The idea that God is meeting our need is the very substance of that which meets our need. Through our oneness with Infinite Mind, all ideas are available to us in proportion to our capacity to receive them.

If someone has established a bank account for you at birth, so that you could draw checks on it to take care of your needs, it would be necessary for you to know about it. It would not be enough to know in general that it was there, but you would have to use it, to make drafts upon it, to meet your individual needs as they arose. God shares His very Being with us. We must know this, and know how to make drafts upon it by claiming our good in the form of the idea which meets our need. Idea is Spirit-Substance. If we are steadfast to it, holding it firmly in mind, and cooperating in every way, it will manifest itself to meet our every need.

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

Life is a complete unity. We hold fast to the principle of Oneness, and we do not make the mistake of dividing God or life into “spiritual” and “secular” realms. Thus, we feel at liberty to

pray about our business, and to treat for adequate supply. We find that God is as willing to help us with our daily living expenses as in every other way.

Our part is to become aware that God is always present and available. Turning to God many times a day, even in little things, help us develop faith. As we become aware of the abundance that is forever manifesting for us, let us accept it with gratitude. The surest way to increase our prosperity is to recognize the blessings we have already received.

Form the habit of communing consciously with God for guidance in every problem, no matter how small. Look for God everywhere, acknowledging all beauty and goodness, in whatever form it may be found, as God's direct gift to you. If you practice the Presence of God, and of Good, systematically, the response will be spontaneous. When you have acquired the habit, the response will be unfailing. Thus you will develop an attitude of habitual thanksgiving. "Thank you, Father/Mother God," will spring to your lips many times as you learn to interpret all good in terms of God's Presence.

Faith is the mental attitude, the steadfast, inward vision and trust, through which we contact our Source of supply. Faith is the persistent holding of our attention to God. Faith is strengthened each time we demonstrate the availability of God's help in a practical way.

THE LAW OF SUPPLY

Divine Love works in an orderly way. Supply comes to us through law, and we must know the Law of Supply if we are to cooperate.

- First, we need faith in the Omnipresence of God, trusting that God is the substance of all form, and will supply our needs. We do not assume, however, that our supply will necessarily come to us in a finished form without effort on our part. Trusting God to meet our need in the right way, we are shown our part.
- We need to recognize the Presence in an *active* way. We give active recognition to our good by affirmation, by praise, and by thanksgiving for supply manifesting NOW.
- We are receptive to the inflow of supply. Worry, fear, and negative states of mind close the channels. Envy of another's good or the belief that others have more than we, cuts off some of the flow of our own good.
- We cooperate by using our own talents and efforts in every way possible. We do all we can to acquire education, and to gain skill in applying it. We are good stewards and use wisely the supply at hand. We also discipline ourselves so that we do not live in advance of our means. As our consciousness of principle grows, our manifest supply grows with it, but we do not spend in advance of our realization of it.
- Most important in realizing our supply is *circulation*. The Father's nature is one of givingness. You, too, must give before you can receive. Take a deep breath, and see that you must exhale before your lungs can receive new air. The abundance of God must flow through you; you cannot hoard it. Give whatever you have. If you do not have sufficient

money to give, you can give of your talents, your energy, your time, your love, your understanding, your cheerfulness, and your prayers. Let them flow out to others as God's abundance flows in to you.

- There must be a circulation in the flow of supply as there is circulation of the blood in humans and animals, and the flow of sap in plants. Work, then, to keep the channel open and free. Jealousy, envy, and worry clog the channel; careless service in your work clogs the channel; lack of appreciation for good you are already receiving clogs the channel. It must flow freely through you and out into the world.

DO NOT FORMULATE

To formulate is to go to God in prayer with a preconceived answer in detail and attempt to treat it into manifestation. We do not recommend this as a wise use of power of mind. Many times we desire things that do not really serve our needs, and whose attainment may bring neither happiness nor spiritual growth.

Some schools of thought advise students to form a clear, mental image of a material object, concentrating on it specifically to bring forth its appearance. This is working in reverse, from the without to the within, and limits the action of Divine Mind in and through us.

Divine Mind, to the contrary, manifests in an orderly way from idea to its visible expression. God knows our needs and their rightful fulfillment far better than we do. If a desire comes, let us turn it over to Him, so that we may be certain it is of God, rather than something coming up from the subconscious realm, either personal or collective. If it is right for us, He will guide us in its fulfillment.

PLANNING OUR PART

True discernment will come to us, so that we may have spiritual discrimination in choosing those desires that are true to principle. Desire in itself is positive; it is, in fact, God informing us of the good that is at hand. People make serious trouble for themselves, however, when their own misperceptions get in the way of correctly interpreting God's good that is available for them. That which is of God is universally good, benefiting us without harming or depriving others. Jesus noted that a tree is known by its fruits. Accordingly, that which is of God is constructive, building up the consciousness of ourselves and others as whole beings, Spirit, soul and body.

Take your desire to God with an open mind, expecting a definite answer. If it seems right, claim the action of Divine Mind directing you, and plan your part in its fulfillment as intelligently and efficiently as you can. This is the legitimate use of the imaging power of your mind, the constructive action of your God-given imagination.

WORKING WITH GOD

To let go and let God does not mean to let go and let others do it. Surrendering your will to the will of God does not mean a passive or apathetic state in which nothing gets done. It implies, rather, a heightened inner activity, an inward certainty that our plan is in accord with the Divine

Will and Nature. Universal Will individualizes Itself as individual will. If you are spiritually alive, you will not be vague or indecisive.

As you come to realize God's Presence, trivial desires will begin to disappear. You will have less desire for the outer trappings of prosperity. You will, instead, feel an increasing motivation to express the spiritual qualities that belong to your nature as a child of God. And, as Jesus said, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33) Seek first the kingdom, and its reigning Christ Mind within you, which forever unites you with the Mind of the Father and Its abundant riches of Infinite Idea.

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON XVII

Study Chapter 10, pp. 163-166, in *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*.

Affirmation: DIVINE MIND, THROUGH THE INDWELLING CHRIST, SUPPLIES ME WITH EVERYTHING I NEED.

Bible Quotations: "As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." (I Timothy 6:17)

"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Also read Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-34.

Questions:

1. What is real substance of all supply?
2. What does the Divine Scientist consider the way of knowledge and power?
3. What are the five points included in the law of supply?
4. What is the difference between "formulating" and working with God?
5. Explain how certain attitudes on our part can stop the flow of supply.
6. Why must we learn to practice the Presence if we are to realize our supply?