

FUNDAMENTALS OF DIVINE SCIENCE

LESSON XVIII

TRUE SERVICE

Service prompted by love is the only real service that we can give to God and to others. It is easy to love and to serve those around us if we remember that “*We love because he first loved us.*” (I John 4:19), and that *we serve because God is forever serving us.* It will help you to serve willingly as you come to realize that you are part of the whole; and that God is expressing not only through you, but through all whom you meet. He is reaching out to you as opportunities to serve the needs of all creatures everywhere.

THE PARTNERSHIP OF GOD AND HUMANITY

God reveals Himself as Love, active in our own being, in countless ways. God shares His own Divine Nature, freely giving us love, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, power, life, and joy. He gives to each one in this most direct way. God also gives Himself to people by means of other people. The loving service of those near and dear to us are all God’s love coming to us through others. Are you willing to let God serve others through you?

YOUR EXPRESSION OF GOD AS LOVE

Your expression of God as Love is a threefold process. You can love God as your Divine Father/Mother; you can love God as the Indwelling Christ, your spiritual Identity; and you can love God by loving other people. When you love others, you are loving the Christ, also, for the Christ is the Real Self of everyone. You are practicing the Presence of God when you consciously recognize the Christ in all those whom you meet daily, your neighbors, your fellow workers, your friends, and your family.

FIND AND USE YOUR TALENTS

God has a universal plan for His creation, and each one of us has a unique individual part to play in its fulfillment. He has given us individual qualities and capacities, our talents, to help us carry out our part in the Divine Plan. We are here to discover our own talents and to develop them to the best of our ability.

If we trust the wisdom and the love of our Divine Father/Mother to deal fairly with all of His children, we will never envy the talents of others nor try to imitate them. Sometimes the glamour and glitter of another’s success may dazzle us, but we must have the vision and determination to unfold our own God-given talents. Through seeking God’s help, you will be guided into developing your own talents and fitting them into the great pattern of life. You will serve best when you serve with the thing that you love and do best.

SERVING OR REFORMING?

Do not, however, confuse serving your neighbor with reforming him. Do not try to change another from without, into the kind of person you think he or she should be. Remember that the same Spirit that is directing your unfoldment is also working through others. God has left you at liberty to develop your talents at your own rate of growth. Respect the same freedom in others. A realization of the Presence of God within yourself brings with it the realization of the same Presence in all.

No satisfactory or permanent change in character comes through the action of your human will on another. True growth is always from within. The surest way to help another is to change yourself first. As the divine nature and power come forth into visibility through you, you will inspire others to seek that inner treasure for themselves.

SERVING OR INDULGING

It is impossible to come into a consciousness of Omnipresence without a longing to express that consciousness in loving service. We must, however, be guided by wisdom in choosing the right way to serve. Remember that we are letting God serve through us; we are not catering to personal sense or yielding to human will. God's loving service does not pamper or indulge the purely sensual or material side of humanity.

Jesus declared, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32) This is the idea of true service; it lifts, blesses, and helps others as whole beings; it never hinders the spiritual unfoldment of the individual. This does not mean that God does not want us to meet human needs; to the contrary, He may work through us in practical ways. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes and thus fed a multitude, but his help never weakened the individual. It never destroyed self-reliance or catered to the egotism of others.

WHERE SHALL YOU SERVE?

You can serve best right where you are now. You are where you are by the Law of Conscious Unfoldment. This law of the evolution of consciousness is God's universal law. It is self-deluding to think that you will begin to serve when you change your job, or find a better place that suits you perfectly, or are with people who appreciate you more. Do your very best where you are, no matter how dull or insignificant work seems to be. Only then will you be ready to take the next step, whatever it may be.

There is only one way to get out of the place where you are, and that is to outgrow it. Those who try to bring about outer change without an inner change soon find themselves in similar circumstances, for like attracts like.

LEARNING TO SERVE

Kahlil Gibran noted in *The Prophet*, "Work is love made visible." Whoever loves best serves best. The self-responsible person with the well-disciplined mind is the person who can serve best. In order to serve others, can you learn to control your own thinking? Can you keep your

own mental world in order? Analyze your own attitudes of thought and feeling now and then. How about the first hour of your day? What do you do with it? Is it creative? Is it constructive? Is there time for God? The way an individual spends the first hour of his or her working day is especially revealing as to that person's developed capacity for service.

Remember that God is your Employer. Surely you can see the importance of daily meditation and prayer; it is your means and contact with your Employer. Can you afford not to take the time for it? It is by means of prayer, and the silence which follows it, that you learn what God wants you to do each day.

If you truly come to see that God is your Employer, you will find yourself lifted above the criticism or blame of others. You will be lifted above the need for praise or applause. You will be freed from personal pride and ambition, for God's valuation of your work, that inner feeling of achievement and fulfillment, is the only one that counts with you.

THE EMERGING CHRIST

If your heart is filled with tenderness for humanity, because you know everyone is an expression of the Father; and if you find no room in your heart for bitterness or anger, you are an emerging Christ. Dare to be the savior of your world by turning to the Christ within you and following Its guidance.

If you give love to all, pay kindness for unkindness, give smiles for frowns, lend new courage to the fearful, strengthen hope and scatter new joy abroad, you are also a redeemer, for you are an awakened Son of God. Be that one who redeems all who are part of your consciousness.

ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON XVIII

Study Chapter 9 of *Divine Science: Its Principle and Practice*.

Affirmation: I GO FORTH THIS DAY, NOT TO BE MOVED BY THINGS AS THEY APPEAR; NOT TO BE LED BY WHAT OTHERS MAY THINK OR SAY; NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY ANYTHING EXTERNAL; BUT TO BE ALL THAT I AM IN ALL THAT I DO.

Bible Quotation: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)

Questions:

1. What makes it easy to love and serve those around us?
2. How can you express God as Love in a threefold way?
3. What is true service?
4. What are you doing to discover and develop your talents?

5. What is the Christ?
6. Why do Divine Scientists so greatly appreciate Jesus?
7. How does a realization of the omnipresence of God affect your understanding of many important religious doctrines? Explain three from Chapter 9.
8. Do you have a new perspective of your own place of service, whatever or wherever it may be?