

THOU ART THE ONLY PRESENCE

PART I

1. All the great schools of spiritual wisdom are based upon the concept that there is in man the power to contact a Universal Creator, and, as a result of this contact, man is able to acquire certain advantages.
2. In this series of lessons in Divine Science, we are undertaking to explain the law by which this contact is made a conscious and deliberate mental process, and the way by which the Higher Consciousness may be developed.
3. In our studies so far, we have dealt with Mind, Life, Law, Principle, and The Action Of The Individual In Relation To The Universal, and there has been a constant reference to the Presence and Power of the Indwelling Christ, which we also term:
4.

EMMANUEL
THE FATHER WITHIN
THE MASTER WITHIN
THE OVERSOUL
THE GREATER SELF
THE GREAT I AM
"THAT I AM,"
5. and other names which are used to designate the hidden Presence and Power that lives in us and dwells in us and expresses as us.
6. There are two bodies, or "I AM" sense of identification that must be brought up at this time. Visibly, there is a physical body, and invisibly there is a spiritual body.
7. Paul explicitly defines this non-material body as the spiritual body which is incorruptible, immortal and deathless. And just as there is a sense-conscious "self" that functions through the physical body, so is there a soul-conscious or spirit-conscious "Self" that functions through the spiritual body.
8. The "I AM" that rules in the house of human life is associated with and uses the physical body as the instrument of time, space, and matter; a human sense of consciousness.

9. The "I AM" that is the IMMORTAL SELF and that rules the Timeless and Spaceless eternal evolution of the Self is associated with and uses the spiritual body as the instrument of the Higher Consciousness. The "that I AM" referred to in the experience of Moses before the burning of the bush when he was instructed by It to talk to his people when they asked him for authority in assuming leadership is the Higher Self: "I am THAT I Am."
10. In other words, the I Am—sense conscious mind (individual)
the I Am, or THAT I AM—the Spiritual Body or Christ (Universal)
11. The primary purpose of these lessons is to present the Perfect Being or Perfect Life in man, the "I AM," and to show how this Perfect Life in man is immortal here and now; and that when we come to see this and to realize it as our own personal sense of identification, to realize it as the Truth or Reality of our Being, Light, Life and Power are added unto man in abundance.
12. A clear, definite concept of the relationship is essential if we are to avail ourselves of its limitless Intelligence, Life, Power and Substance.
13. The wisdom of Solomon states that "there is no new thing under the sun." (Eccl. 1:9). And this is true as we partake of this class, for TRUTH is infinite, the "same yesterday, today and forever."

PART II

14. God is Intelligence. The teaching of Divine Science is a way of communing or establishing rapport with Infinite Intelligence and expressing Intelligence as the result of this communion by the law: as within, so without.
15. THERE SHOULD BE NO SENSE OR LABOR IN THIS COMMUNION. THERE IS NEVER A NEED FOR STRAIN IN THE EFFORT TO KNOW TRUTH.
16. Intelligence is Infinite Being. Intelligence includes within Itself all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Since there is but one Intelligence, Intelligence is "your" Intelligence. Since Truth Is Everywhere, Truth is here.
17. Since there is but one God (Wisdom, Life, Substance, Love, Peace, Harmony, etc.) since there is but One, "Hear ye, O Israel, the Lord our God is one" (Deut. 6:4). God is the Mind, the Intelligence, the Life, the Soul of your Being. God is the consciousness of being; God is the consciousness of your being and my being.
18. Think it through. God is consciousness. Consciousness is God. Consciousness includes the totality of being. There is but one consciousness. There is but one God. God is the infinite, universal and individual Consciousness expressing as the life and substance in all things and as all things.
19. This Infinite and Universal Life expresses as infinite individuality. Life at all times expresses individuality as individual you and me. "As the father (Infinite Universal Principle) hath life in himself, so hath he given the son (individualized expression of Principle) to have life in himself." (John 5:26)
20. Universal Spirit (Principle) is always in action bringing forth life, form, creation. Its mode of action is law, and the result of its action is Relative Expression. That is, when any form comes forth into existence, it is true that the origin of this form is the One Cause, Principle, God, First Cause, expressing Itself as individualized form.
21. In the case of man, there is the capacity to think and in his use of this power he sets the Universal Principle in action with reference to some particular object.
22. It is this power to consciously cooperate with Infinite Principle that gives man mastery over his own life.

23. Man thinks and his thought falls into the Universal medium of creative activity and this medium, being entirely impersonal, responds to the thought of the individual (consciousness of the individual) in perfect harmony.

24. This action or response indicates certain attributes in the Universal:

It is the "unconditioned absolute," and, therefore, is unlimited in creative ability.

It is the Principle of Causation, and, therefore, has no personal will, but commits to the forms that come from it, the capacity to act from the center of life and intelligence within them, which is immediately available to each because all are within the universal one.

25. From the standpoint of the Universal or the Absolute there is not God and man (creator and creation) but only

there is only God, and because God is infinite—the ALL of everything—Deity must express and manifest as individual you and me.

26. A Divine Science teacher has said it thus:

As in the science of numbers all figures are the repetition of one, and that one repeated appears as different forms, giving a variety of figures, each representing the number of times the one has been repeated. In Divine Science, the starting point is the unit, the one God.

27. All forms, simple and complex are the expression of the One—they exist as the One revealed and are "members one of another." Each living form is as perfect within itself as is the One producing it; each

28. Existence then, (visible manifestation) is not here on its own account, but is here because God the Creator

29. Since God is before he creates, there is no attitude of knowledge for us to take except that we are in the Universal Being before we are expressed in visible form; hence, I am, before I think.
—Divine Science Textbook

30. "Before I formed thee, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I

sanctified thee." (Jer. 1:5)

31. The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before the works of old.

I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

Before the mountains were set before the hills, was I brought forth;

While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world,

When he prepared the heavens I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the earth:

When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

When he gave the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandments; when he appointed the

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

For who so findeth me, findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord. (Prov. 8:22-30, 33-35)

32. Definition. GOD:

The eternal, independent and self-existent Being;

The Being whose purposes and actions spring from Itself, without extraneous motive or influence;

He who is absolute in dominion;

The most pure, the most simple, and the most spiritual of all essences;

infinitely benevolent; true and holy;

the Cause of all being; the upholder and sustainer of all things;

illimitable in his immensity, inconceivable in his mode of existence and indestructible and inexhaustible in his essence;

known fully only to Himself, because an infinite mind can be fully apprehended only by Itself.

—Clark's Commentary
Methodist Book of

Concern