

## MORE ABOUT PRAYER

Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray . . ."

It is quite useless to pray with the door open and with consciousness filled with materialism, or evil by any name. "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." Then is the time and the only time to pray, for then "the Lord is in his holy temple." Otherwise we might as well not pray at all, for to pray in any manner, by supplication, by implication, or what not, if the prayer be predicated on some error to be eradicated, is to leave the door wide open, and consciousness a receptacle for evils of one kind or another.

The Word of God in this age states: "The closet typifies the sanctuary of Spirit, the door of which shuts out sinful sense but lets in Truth, Life, and Love. Closed to error, it is open to Truth, and *vice versa*. . . . To enter into the heart of prayer, the door of the erring senses must be closed. Lips must be mute and materialism silent, that man may have audience with Spirit, the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error." (*Science and Health*)

We must "stand porter at the door of thought" (ibid), and prevent any kind of error from prevailing in consciousness; we must refrain from entertaining evil of any sort. "The door of the erring senses must be closed. Lips must be mute and materialism silent." (ibid) There must be no recognition of error in any way, either by argument, contradiction, mumbling of opposing declarations or affirmation of Truth. "Let all the earth keep silent before Him" — let every material or earthly suggestion of evil be barred from consciousness, or let the door be tightly closed. Thus the complete denial of error is accomplished, and its consequent entrance into consciousness is prevented, and thus is consciousness made "the sanctuary of Spirit" (*Science and Health*), the temple of the living God, not a temple of the human or mortal or death-mind, but the temple of the living Mind; the temple of the Holy Ghost; the house of God; the home of Christ; the Kingdom of God; the house of prayer; the church of God, or the Church of Christ, Scientist. And, of course, therein is to be found the occupant of that house, temple, church, or sanctuary; God, Spirit, is present, or, as Jesus referred to it, "The Father that dwelleth in me," and according to Habakkuk, "The Lord is in his holy temple."

You cannot run your engine with water, because it is a gas engine. You must have gas in your tank, which is why it is called a gas tank; if it were meant to hold water, it would be a water tank. The creation of God is not run with the human mind, the devil, or non-intelligence, but by the one Mind, God, Spirit, infinite intelligence. So if your consciousness is filled with the human mind or error, things will not go right with you. But if you have your consciousness or temple, from which error or the human mind has been excluded, filled with the Spirit, God, with the one Mind, then it will operate, pray, or act; and, taking command, cause things to go right, just as in the engine the gas will explode or act, and the

engine will function properly and rightly. “When the king entered into the house of the Lord . . . and humbled himself . . . things went well” (II Chronicles 12)

Paul says, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings [words] which cannot be uttered [by the human mind].” The human mind doesn’t know what to ask for or to pray for, just as the water in the tank cannot be made to run the engine; but get rid of the water, and let the tank be filled with pure gasoline, and at once it will commence to function and make the engine go. So when the human mind, which is the only devil there is, for it “is enmity against God,” just as the water is enmity against gasoline, is closed out of the “think-tank” or consciousness or sanctuary or kingdom, and is filled with the one Mind, the Christ-Mind, or the Spirit, God, then will “the Father that dwelleth in me,” as Jesus put it, begin to function, or to pray for us, and it knows exactly what we have need of. “Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him.” God Himself proceeds to make intercession for us, or prays for us, and gives us those things which are needful, and does all this for His own glorification. Just as Crusoe didn’t know what he wanted, but the author knew what he had need of before he asked him; and so Crusoe knew not what he should pray for as he ought, but the author knew, and it was his, the author’s, good pleasure to give him the kingdom — that little kingdom in the South Seas. So the Spirit itself also maketh intercession for us, or prays for us, for He, God, the Author, perceives what things we have need of before we ask Him, and He gives us the Kingdom of God, for God’s own glory, and whatever goes with it.

Jesus said, “Glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee,” and “O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” And again, “I have glorified thee on the earth. I have finished the work which *thou* gravest *me* to do,” and yet again, speaking of the inability of the human mind to do anything worthwhile, he said, “If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say that he is your God.”

“Jesus went into the temple of God [into his own consciousness or temple] and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves.” He closed the door on all manner of evil, those that bartered in prayers and a false sense of peace, the commercialism of Spirit. He closed the door on whatever indicated trust in supply as coming from anywhere save only from God, lest he make his “house [or consciousness] a house of merchandise.” He stood “porter at the door of thought” and prevented any kind of evil from lodging in his temple or consciousness, and said unto them, “It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.” For the devil, or human mind, if admitted into consciousness will rob us of everything — health, wealth, peace, supply, substance, and even life itself. “And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple,” in the house of God; and he, “the Father that dwelleth in me,” as Jesus termed it, “healed them.”

Once again, it is a fact: “The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Would it not be a wonderful thing if each one went into the material edifices, known as houses or temples of God, or houses of prayer, each one having cast out from consciousness all manner of evil, commercialism, or reliance upon aught but God for supply of any sort, be it health, wealth, peace, life, love, or whatnot. And with that conscious-

ness then having become the temple of the living God, the temple of the Holy Ghost, the true House of God, or the Church of Christ, Scientist — the Church, Temple, or House of the exact knowledge of God or of the Christ — and then would find it had come to pass that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I,” — God, Spirit — “the Father that dwelleth in me,” as the Master said, “in the midst of them.” Surely once again the blind and the lame coming to this “I” in the midst of them would be healed.