

The Path to Wisdom

THE WAY OF TRUTH INSTRUCTION
THROUGH METAPHYSICAL TERMS
AND DEFINITIONS

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“The beginning of wisdom is the
beginning of supernatural power.”

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What is the meaning of Absolute?

Absolute, sometimes used as a synonym for God, signifies absence of limitation, freedom from restriction, unconditioned perfection. Truth is absolute; it cannot be altered to fit the opinions or beliefs or desires of men. Nothing they think or believe about it can affect its calm imperturbability. Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken away from it. Absolute Truth is ultimate, infinite and eternal. It is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Omnipotent Principle we call God.

What is Affirmation?

Affirmation is a positive phase of being. It may be expressed by thought or word or general attitude of mind. It must be based upon Absolute Truth or its manifestation will be imperfect. "Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established unto you." Are we decreeing pain, old age and death for our bodies; lack and failure for our affairs; inharmony and discontent for our minds? Let us make our affirmations in accordance with Absolute Truth. Positive thought, so expressed, produces health, peace and perfection.

What is Appearance?

The real of anything is the way it really is; the

way we see it is its appearance. Correct thinking is thinking according to truth, or as things really are. Every time we think or act contrary to this doctrine we sin, or fall short of our mark of perfection. Sin produces disastrous results which, although distressing to their owner have no reality except as power is given them by those who believe in their actuality. They have no archetype in the realm of Spirit, but are merely false appearances in a world of sense.

What is Assurance?

Assurance is defined as full confidence, boldness, firmness of mind, undoubting conviction. It is a spiritual quality implying faith, self-confidence and self-reliance. It is a necessary element in any success. No man can succeed without a strong conviction and the courage to stand behind it. Assurance is a quality of mind which any person may cultivate and it comes from positive belief in the truth of the subject under consideration. We may call it the consciousness of God in the soul; a sustained consciousness of His presence and power and a sublime faith in our ability to direct and use this power in our daily lives.

What is the significance of the word Channel?

A channel is that through which anything flows

or passes. Life must flow; its urge must be expressed; its energy must be made active. It seeks its highest expression through humanity, which is a channel for the outflow of divine Intelligence. Life's eternal energy must be expressed or it will stagnate and become dull and inert, therefore useless and uninteresting. Man is a channel for all that God is; work, or self-expression is a channel for all that man is.

What is the Christ Within?

The spirit of man is ever yearning to express the divine image which was stamped upon his soul "in the beginning." The continuous, insistent impetus he feels is the God-mind thinking through its image and likeness, and seeking to express itself in distinctive embodiment. In Jesus dwelt the true realization and manifestation of the Christ. In him the ideal man became the actual; in his Christ spirit he saw continually the pattern of perfection. The Christ within each one of us is the consciousness of the perfect ideal.

What is Communion?

Communion is mental or spiritual contact. "Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door" upon noise and distraction, upon mortal delusions and sense demands, then the soul may

approach its Creator, quietly and alone, and “pray to its Father which is in secret.” Within each one is the Presence. Within are the wondrous things we are seeking; within is the place of adjustment—the mountain of illumination where we may commune with God. Here we may rest silently, in the security of the Father’s understanding, for He knows what we have need of before we ask Him.

What is Compensation?

Compensation is a principle of action and re-action, whereby a given effort rebounds with an equal and opposite force. It is a law of vibration, effective alike in the natural and spiritual worlds. What you set in operation re-acts as a boomerang, returning to you with the same degree of force that you put into its inception. As you sow, you will reap. As you give, you will receive. As you judge, you will be judged. Each one is meeting a definite re-action of his own thought. Each receives, with unerring exactitude, that which he gives out. Justice and equity return to him. What you put into life is your own and nothing can keep it from you.

What is Concentration?

Concentration has been called the master-key to

success, but it is more than that. It is an indispensable element in all advancement, all development and all progress. The word itself signifies “drawing to a center.” It is fixed attention to one subject; the ability to hold the mind steadily in one direction; the “casting down of all imaginations and bringing every thought into captivity” to the dominant idea. It disciplines the mind by the exercise of the will. It promotes self-control which is the first necessity in harmonious living.

What is a Concept?

The evolution of consciousness begins with sensation, or a gradual awareness of surrounding objects. The registration of these sense impressions we call percepts. A sound heard, an object seen, is a percept. When the sound is distinguished from other sounds, or the object differentiated from other objects, the percept becomes a recept. When the accumulation of percepts and recepts grows large enough to demand expression, certain relationships are established between the two, and concepts are formed. A recept is made up of many percepts, an image abstracted from many images. A concept is the registration of that image as an idea in mind.

What is Consciousness?

Direct knowledge of objects, states or sensations, by means of perception, is termed consciousness. Individual consciousness is developed by thought and colored by that which persistently dominates mental activity. As we think, we become; therefore consciousness is the creator of our world, as we are the creators of our consciousness. Grades of consciousness vary, from the lowest and slowest, to the super or cosmic. The race consciousness functions in the material world, where men are still earth and time bound. This consciousness is focused only on material things.

What is Cosmic Consciousness?

As its name suggests, cosmic consciousness is an awareness of the Cosmos, or the life, nature and beauty of the universe. It is a supreme, intuitive knowledge of divine order transcending the mere intellectual faculty of comprehension. It *comes upon* us as we *grow up* into it. It sees both the "without" and the "within." To Paul it was the "Christ Mind." He wrote "If any man is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, they are become new."

What is Courage?

We are apt to confuse courage and fearlessness.

Every normal person knows the meaning of fear. Courage is a quality of mind which is not afraid to meet fear. Courage goes confidently forward to face the person, place, condition or situation that appears intimidating. The courageous man is not afraid of fear because he has faith in his ability to meet it victoriously. Courage includes caution, for the brave man does not rush recklessly into danger. True courage includes an intelligent recognition of danger, an earnest and active effort to circumvent it and finally a rallying of forces and a "going forward."

What is Creation?

It is an aggregate of all existing things. To sense perception it indicates solid, inert, unresponsive matter and living organisms of human, animal or plant structure. To the scientific mind it means organized granular formation of etheric substance, throbbing with the vibratory energy of electron and proton, atom and molecule, and radiant with caloric and chemical activity. To spiritual vision it is soul-substance in manifestation; embodiment of living Intelligence; the Word made flesh in a variety of celestial castings.

What is Demonstration?

In demonstrating a problem we work it out ac-

cording to mathematical principles. We *prove* it beyond the shadow of a doubt. Demonstration is the proof of workability and requires strictly deductive reasoning. Spiritual demonstration is manifestation of true reality; perfect expression of the God-idea. It is a working out of spiritual principle as opposed to that which is carnal and material. In working out spiritual problems it is necessary to apply spiritual laws. We may “prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” for us, by demonstrating it in our lives.

What is Denial?

Denial clears the way for the establishment of truth in the mind. It is a liberation from hampering bonds, an erasure of wrong reasoning. It dredges the mental channels for the inflow of positive ideas. While it is a very necessary factor in dealing with shadowy, false appearances, its excessive use may prove destructive by producing a state of ineffective negativity. Denial not only suggests, but necessitates a corresponding process of reconstruction, or affirmation; it is but a clearing of the ground, a preparation for the building of substantial, positive ideas.

What is Desire?

We are continually confusing our wishes and our

desires. A wish may seem very real, yet it is often merely capricious, lacking the body of substance. Desire is something which beckons us to take possession of our own; its purpose in the divine plan is fixed and definite; it comes from the soul of being and is the inner urge to achievement. It is the very beginning of the creative power of thought—the force back of the thought itself.

What is Dimension?

Dimension is any measurable extent, such as length, breadth or depth, by which the capacity of matter is computed. Metaphysically, dimension is the degree, or relative extent of consciousness, at which we have arrived in our journey between the lowest and highest points of conscious awareness, or between instinct and intuition.

What is the Divine Ideal?

It is the perfect image held always in the thought of God. The spiritual body is the fulfillment of the Divine Ideal—the likeness imaged by immutable Principle. It is the reality which each man's inner being tells him should manifest. In each one of us exists the ideal, immortal self, the divine image of ultimate perfection. To nourish this germ of divinity into growth is the goal toward which we work.