



The Rainbow Journal

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Website:

www.edgarcaycenewzealand.com

Link to Search for God Lessons:

www.improvetransform.com

Email:

rainbowjournal@live.com

Address:

**Brian Alderson
Auckland, New Zealand.**

Telephone:

(09) 818 9552

FROM THE EDITOR

When reading 'Conversations With God' - Book 2, I came across a passage which expressed what I hope readers will gain from the articles I have written and selected for the Journal. This is the (edited) passage:

"Listen to your soul. Hear yourself.

Even when I present you with an option, an idea, a point of view, you are under no obligation to accept that as your own. If you disagree, then disagree. That is the whole point of these writings. The idea was to cause you to think. To think for yourself." BDA ΩΩΩ

JUST A MISTAKE

In the last issue of the Journal we wrote on one of the precepts and principles found in 'A Course in Miracles' Text and Workbook, which was that of *Oneness*. It was pointed out that this concept was also found in the Edgar Cayce readings and in other New Age literature. There is however one assertion in the ACIM text that is alien to many of us and that is that *there is no sin*.

For a person brought up in the Christian church the idea that sin does not exist is completely foreign as the doctrine of sin is central to Christianity, since its basic message is about redemption in Jesus Christ. Christian doctrine describes sin as an act of offence against God either directly by disobeying His commandments, or by injuring others. St. Augustine of Hippo described sin as "a word, deed, or desire in opposition to the eternal law of God."

According to some Bible text we are all sinners: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). Furthermore it suggest we were born in sin: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5 -ASV).

The Course refutes these claims and offers various statements in logic in support. Firstly the Course claims that we were created in the image of God - as stated in the Bible. That being the case we, spiritual beings, were created perfect just as God is perfect. But if in fact we were born imperfect, by being created a

sinner, then God must also be imperfect. Or put in another way, if we were born sinners, then God also is a sinner. The only alternate would be that we were not created in the image of God but were in fact created imperfect, faulty. Thus if we were born faulty why should God blame us and punish us for these faults which He created?

The Course goes on to explain the concept of sin and why the belief in it is so damaging to us, causing unnecessary suffering, feelings of guilt and unworthiness. It suggests that a problem with sin is that it cannot be easily erased, as suggested in the following comments of sin as found on a Christian website. This is are probably typical of the Christian attitudes towards sin:

*"God hates (Editor:Does God hate?) sin; He cannot stand to look at its ugliness. Therefore, unconfessed sin in our lives comes between us and damages our relationship with the Lord. . . Because God hates sin, the price for forgiveness is high. . . We must admit our sins to God if our relationship with Him is to be restored completely."*¹

What is interesting about sin is that it is about our relationship with God so for an atheist where there is no relationship with God, therefore there is no sin. Nor is the word 'sin' found in secular law. We may break the laws of our country and if we are convicted of an offence we will bear the consequences as set down in law: that is all. We may then

be labelled 'criminals' but not 'sinners.' One may ask: What is the difference?

The Course sees sin as mistakes which call for correction:

“The Son of God can be mistaken; he can deceive himself; he can even turn the power of his mind against himself. But he cannot sin. There is nothing he can do that would really change his reality in any way, nor make him really guilty. That is what sin would do, for such is its purpose. Yet for all the wild insanity inherent in the whole idea of sin, it is impossible. For the wages of sin is death, and how can the immortal die?”

“Mistakes can be corrected, sins cannot. That is the belief which implies that sins are permanent. Your brother's sins become the central target for correction, lest your errors and his own be seen as one. Yours are mistakes, but his are sins and not the same as yours. His merits punishment, while yours, in fairness, should be overlooked.”

“Sin is an idea of evil that cannot be corrected, and yet will be forever desirable. As an essential part of what the ego thinks you are, you will always want it. And only an avenger, with a mind unlike your own, could stamp it out through fear.”

Our religion teaches us that we cannot, by ourselves, correct our sins but require something outside ourselves to do so. We either have to go to God directly or through an intermediary to confess our sins in the hope that they will be absolved:

*“The belief in sin is necessarily based on the firm conviction that minds, not bodies, can attack. And thus the mind is guilty, and will forever so remain unless a mind **not part of it** can give it absolution. Sin calls for punishment as error for correction, and the belief that punishment is correction is clearly insane.”*

“An error, on the other hand, is not attractive. What you see clearly as a mistake you want corrected. Sometimes a sin can be repeated over and over, with obviously distressing results, but without the loss of its appeal. And suddenly, you change its status from a sin to a mistake. Now you will not repeat it; you will merely stop and let it go, unless the guilt remains. For then you will but change the form of sin, granting that it was an error, but keeping it uncorrectable. This is not really a change in your perception, for it is sin that calls for punishment, not error.”

The Course says that the Holy Spirit can correct mistakes but cannot deal with sin:

“The Holy Spirit cannot punish sin. Mistakes he recognises, and would correct them all as God entrusted him to do. But sin he knows not, nor can he recognise mistakes that cannot be corrected. For a mistake that cannot be corrected is meaningless to him. Mistakes are for correction, and they call for nothing else. What calls for punishment must call for nothing. Every mistake must be a call for love. What, then, is sin? What could it be but a mistake you would keep hidden; a call for help that you would keep unheard and thus unanswered?”

We can work together to correct errors: *“Errors are quickly recognised and quickly given to correction, to be healed, not hidden. You will be healed of sin and all its ravages the instant that you give it no power over your brother. And you will help each other overcome mistakes by joyously releasing one another from the belief in sin.”*

However there are those that would argue that there is a big difference between sin and mistakes which has nothing to do with God or our relationship to Him. The contention is

that mistakes are unintentional whereas sins are deliberate acts so cannot be easily dismissed. It is argued that unlike a mistake, we choose to sin, therefore, we must accept responsibility for them—and the consequences that follow. This is a rather weak argument as we also must accept responsibility for our errors with their consequences. The difference being that once we have corrected our errors and undergone the consequences they are forgotten whereas the illusions of sins are like black marks on the soul that cannot be erased.

The Hindu spiritual teacher, Swami Sivananda takes the same position over sin as does the Course:

“The ignorant man only says: ‘I am a great sinner.’ This is a serious mistake. Never for a moment think that you are a sinner. You are the most holy one, you are the ever-pure Atman. Sin cannot touch you. You are above good and evil, vice and virtue which are mental creations only. Sins are mistakes only. An ignorant soul commits these mistakes during the course of his journey in this world on account of ignorance. Through mistakes he gains experiences and marches forward in his path of spirituality. Every mistake is your best teacher. One has to evolve

through sins and mistakes. These mistakes are inevitable. Some people become a prey to thoughts of sin. They ever brood: ‘We are great sinners. We have committed many crimes.’ This is a great blunder.

“Whenever thoughts of this nature worry you, you should think: ‘I am doing penance. This will burn all old sinful actions. This will purify my mind. I am doing meditation, fasting and charity. These are all great purifiers. I am becoming purer and purer. Nothing can affect me now. I am like the effulgent fire. I have become a holy person.’ Assert, whenever such negative thoughts of sin trouble you: ‘I am the sinless son of God’.

“Hear the words of assurance of Lord Krishna in the Gita: ‘Even if you are the most sinful of all sinners, yet you shall cross over all sin by the raft of wisdom. As the burning fire reduces fuel to ashes, O Arjuna, so does the fire of wisdom reduce all action to ashes. Verily, there is no purifier in this world like wisdom; he that is perfected in Yoga finds it in the Self in due season.’” BDA
ΩΩΩ

¹<http://christiananswers.net/q-dml/dml-y004.html>

THE BIBLE AND REVELATIONS

Over the weekend I had a visitor at my door holding a book under her arm and asking me if I was familiar with the Bible. I responded with a positive and asked her if she had heard of Edgar Cayce, The Course in Miracles, Paul Solomon and the Conversations with God books. She replied that she had not heard of any of these and went on to say that all one needs to know about God is contained in the Bible. She went on to state the the Bible “ . . . is God's Word, written by God . . . that is the writings were inspired by God.”

Like my visitor, there are large numbers of very devout Christians who believe that all knowledge about God is contained in the Bible and believe that the Bible contains “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” They believe God wrote the Bible through the medium of his devoted servants who were inspired by Him. Furthermore there is a belief that all revelations about God stopped with the Bible. As one Pastor wrote: “The Bible not only claims to be God’s completed revelation to man, but also God’s final revelation. . . Since the

Bible is God's complete and final revelation to men, it repeatedly warns about those claiming to have other revelations from God. The apostle Paul warned we are not to believe anyone who brings another revelation, even if it was from an angel. 'But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed' (Galations 1:8-9)"²

Looking at it from a logical standpoint what these people are claiming is that the basis for the authority of the Bible is found in the Bible itself. This is like me claiming to be inspired by God to write down "Whatever I say is true" and then I can claim that whatever I say is true because it is proven in writing!

What is interesting is that while Christians claim that the Bible contains the final revelations of God, Muslims also claim that Muhammad is the last prophet and the Quran contains the final revelations: *"Islam is the final revelation to mankind from our Creator, Allah (God). . . There is nothing worthy of worship except Allah (God) and Muhammad is his last and final Messenger. . .the Qur'an, the last revelation."*³ Although, apparently nowhere in the Quran does it actually state that it is the final revelation.

There is a reason why Christian, Islamic and other religious leaders will not accept any revelations concerning God beyond what is in their authoritative books. It is about power and control. Should new revelations come forth they may contradict these ancient texts or offer new and different interpretations and therefore question the holy writings that form the basis for their authority. So the authority of these leaders could be

undermined and weakened. To protect themselves they will discredit and, or attempt to eliminate the sources of these revelations and often have the messengers killed. This is why throughout history God's messengers have been executed. As stated in 'Conversations With God': *"It takes great courage to announce oneself as a man of God. You understand, the world will much more readily accept you as virtually anything else—but a man of God? An actual messenger? Every one of My messengers has been defiled. Far from gaining glory, they have gained nothing but heartache."*⁴

With us humans, when we believe something that we consider to be important to us we do not want to find out we are wrong. One only has to listen to a couple arguing to see that all each party is doing is attempting to support what it believes and will not listen to anything that tends to undermine their beliefs. This is the same stance religious leaders take when confronted with beliefs other than their own.

Not that the Bible and other holy books should be discredited. They have provided insight, hope and comfort to generations of searchers for God. That does not mean that we should close our minds to new revelations. As the God inspired book 'Christ in You' puts it:

*"Your Bible has become to you THE Book, but I would also have you know that God has inspired men and woman with power to reveal, in our own time, even greater things, and ever fresh unfoldings from the heart of life. Above all things we want you to have the open vision today, for greater things are coming, and God is doing wonders among you. Rejoice in the new revelation, abounding in hope. The new will reveal the old to you afresh. Have no doubts. Launch out into the deeps of God, and fear not."*⁵ BDA ΩΩΩ

²<http://www.padfield.com/acrobat/greesson/finalrevelation.pdf>

³http://tawheednyc.com/our_publications/islam.pdf

⁴ "Conversations With God' Book 1, Chapter 8

⁵ 'Christ in You' Part 1, Lesson 10

THE SIN OF INTEREST

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. – Proverbs 22:7

Historical the charging of interest on loans was considered, at the very least, immoral if not a transgression against the laws of God. This repugnance to interest stems from both the religious view that charging interest, especially exorbitant interest, was a sin, and the moral standpoint that interest was a flagrant expression of greed.

According to the Laws of Moses the charging of interest on loans is a sin. Although like many statement in the Bible, if taken literally, the quotations can be interpreted in different ways. We read in Exodus 22:25 "If you lend money to my people, to the poorest among you - you shall not extract interest from them." But in Deuteronomy 23:20 "On loans to a foreigner you may charge interest, but on loans to another Israelite you may not charge interest." There are other quotations, mostly in the Old Testament, that generally condemn interest and in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus emphasised that one should lend without concern for a return – or even repayment. However those who support the principle of interest can quote the Parable of the Talents, which is the story of a servant who did not increase the money given to him by his master: "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have what was my own with interest" (*Matthew 25:26-27*)

In the early centuries of Christianity the charging of interest was

forbidden and in fact from 1179 those who practised it were excommunicated. Judaism followed the commandment not to charge interest to fellow Israelites. Later Islam, following the teachings of Mohammed, also forbade the imposition of interest. In the English speaking world a key change was for the permission to charge interest by an Act of Henry VIII in England in 1545. Nowadays of the three religions it appears that only Islam continues to ban the practice.

Since the time of Henry VIII the acceptance of interest charging has permeated throughout the Western world although up until recent times most Western governments imposed controls on credit and strict limits of the amount of interest that could be charged and usury, in the sense of exorbitantly high rates of interest, was often illegal. Nowadays, at a time of globalisation, deregulation, free trade and 'letting market forces prevail,' we see very little control and regulation of credit and interest. In fact a number of Governments are in on the game by setting up schemes to loan money at interest to young people for their education.

From a moral standpoint the denunciation of interest charging is based on the principle that it is an imposition of the rich on the poor. It is the rich who have the money available to lend and who extract interest from the poor whose only way of repaying the interest as well as the principle, is by working for the money which brings about a form of economic slavery.

It is considered morally unjust that by merely having money, the moneyed people can live and prosper without

having to work and still retain the money they have. As an example: Bill has an inheritance of \$1 million and lends the money at 6% interest to Fred. Bill now receives \$60,000 a year for interest alone so does not need to work for a living and at the same time he retains ownership of the \$1 million. What is happening here is that Fred is now working as an economic slave to Bill until the loan plus interest is repaid. The amount of time Fred must spend in this slavery will depend on Fred's capacity to earn money. In reality Bill will probably place the money in an interest bearing account with a bank or other lending institution in which case 'Fred' may be a number of borrowers who each would be mortgaged for some time working to pay Bill his interest.

Another reason given for denouncing interest is that the poorer one becomes the greater the amount of interest one is charged. One may argue that lenders must be able to cover inflation and risks which can eat away at one's capital and would therefore justify interest. If the interest was only used to cover this inflation then there would be little cause for concern.

A recent TV documentary highlighted the the exorbitant interest some loan sharks are extracting from the lower income class. One story related was over a loan for a car purchased for \$10,000 from a car dealer. The borrower had great difficulty in keeping up the repayments over three years with the consequence extra fees and penalty interest was added to the loan. Finally the car was repossessed and resold for \$2,000 which was credited to the borrowers account. At that time he had already paid \$13,000 in repayments and interest but the amount the lender claimed from him, after the credit for the sale of the repossessed car, was \$17,000!

In another case a woman borrowed

\$200 for car repairs and said the interest rate was 10%. "Ten percent per annum?" asked the interviewer. "No, ten percent per week!" The interest rate being perfectly legal in this modern deregulated society.

What is becoming of great concern these days is that ethics seem to be disappearing from much of our business world where greed is no longer considered a vice but a virtue. Michael Douglas as Mr. Gekko in the movie *Wall Street* said "Greed is good." If Scrooge was conducting his business today it would be under the banner of 'Scrooge Incorporated' and as a company would receive accolades for business excellence. Banks in particular, the backbone of our finance industry used to be looked up to for their integrity and business ethics however we now observe the major banks being involved in shady deals and illegal overcharging in the frantic efforts to satisfy their shareholders insatiable appetites for profits.

As our opening quote from Proverbs states, *the rich rule over the poor*, so it is these people who have ensured that governments do everything possible to curb inflation and thus preserve the wealth of the affluent. Yet it is this very matter of charging interest by those affluent people that puts a constant inflationary pressure on the value of money.

While the above comments only briefly touch on a subject of interest, which can be quite a complex issue, it is hoped that the foregoing will leave you with food for thought. Our current economic system has a number of intrinsic flaws, and the negative results of our present policies on interest need to be addressed if we are to curb the widening gap between the haves and have nots and the inability of the wealthy countries to address the basic needs of much of the world's population.

What did Edgar Cayce have to say about interest? There appears to be no direct reference to interest charging in the readings but this may simple be explained by the fact that he was never asked about the subject. He did however give some readings on world affairs and economics.

As to how can things be changed Cayce stated: *"Hence each would ask, then: 'What must I do about it; not what shall this, that or the other ruler, other office holder, or the other individual do' but each should ask, 'What must I do about the economic conditions in which we find ourselves?' So live each day, each hour, as to put into practice those precepts, those influences in thine own life, and in the life of all you contact day by day."*

In all comes down to the following of the great commandment 'to love one another.'

How can one love your neighbour and at the same time cause him to be economically oppressed? *"He that says he loves God and sees his neighbour in need of food or a coat, and says 'Go in peace - God be with thee,' and does nothing about it, is a liar and a thief, wherever he may be; is false to self and will one day create those things that will bring discontent and disputations in the earth."* 3976-1

We are not to be greedy, we are not to worship money: *"In the very nature, though, of a nation, a people, there are some fundamental principles upon which the economic and the soul life of a nation must be founded, if such a people, such a nation, is to remain true to that which is the birthright of every soul; to pursue that which will give it as an individual the right to manifest that*

it would worship in its Creator."

"For, the first law that has been given to man from the beginning is: 'Thou shalt have no other gods before me.' And when man has faltered, has altered that, which has deprived others from giving expression to that birthright, that command that has come to man throughout the ages, then there arises that which creates those things that are the fruits of the evil influences that are in the earth. Such as: Hate, jealousy, avarice, and the like. These make for the creating of those conditions in all walks of life for power, for position, for the love of money and that it will bring in its associations in the lives of individuals. And, as there has been just this experience in the affairs of the nation as a nation, the nation as a nation is passing through that period when each soul must turn to that thought within of what is its relation to the Creative Forces in its experience; and each soul must ask itself what it as a soul is going to do about that command that was given, and that is the privilege of every soul; to show forth that very law of love that is the birthright of every soul. For, with that command has come ever that to which mankind may expect to find himself reduced when he has forgotten that which is his first duty, and the second which is likened unto it; 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'"

"One cannot separate the economics of a country form the other aspects of our lives: all are free, all are equal before God. The social order, the religious order, the economic order must all be for One God! For, know that the Lord thy God is One!" - BDA ΩΩΩ



THE AGE OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

In an earlier article of the Journal "A Prophecy for Our Present Time" the clairvoyant Hach Purcel, channelling the spirit Lazarus, referred to the current time as a period when we are dealing with 'human rights on a spiritual level.' This is part of the dawning of our New Age, the Age of Aquarius when we are no longer accepting the old dogmas of fear when we were instructed us to believe what we were told or be condemned to an eternity in hell. This is a time when people all over the world are embracing new thoughts on the old doctrines. To quote from 'Christ in You' : *"Do not too hurriedly dismiss the pearl in the old orthodox teaching; it serves its day and generation most efficiently. When man thought of himself as a separate and outside unit, only this teaching could help his unfoldment, so thank God for the ladder of dead creeds – dead selves. But now the divine man is arising; He has burst the old bottles; the new wine of life cries out for space and freedom, as the sap does in the tree."*

This arising has been witnessed and spoken of by people like Edgar Cayce who has not contradicted a single word of the Bible but has given much of it a whole new meaning. The authors of 'A Course in Miracle' and 'Conversations With God' are examples of the New Age heralds who write of a God that is no

longer contained in churches and synagogues but in the hearts of every single person if we are only prepared to look inside ourselves.

We are now in the Age of Aquarius, the characteristic of which include great and frequent changes as people struggle to adapt to the new energies. Some major changes are obvious - such as science, computers and technology, all of which are now forming the backbone of our society. New religious thought, alternative medicine, astrology, vegetarianism and other subjects previously considered weird or cranky are growing rapidly in popularity, and are all subjects associated with the sign of Aquarius. These subjects will become more and more commonplace, and astrology and other 'mystical' methods of self-help and understanding will help people to become more in tune with their spiritual selves in preparation for the New Age.

People are already beginning to look within for the answers they seek, instead of outwards to money, possessions and other people. The more enlightened members of society will welcome the New Dawn with its emphasis on humanity, kindness, truth, spirituality and enlightenment. BDA
ΩΩΩ

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Parables, which are brief stories that illustrate a moral or religious lesson, were used many times by Jesus in his teachings. The underlying meanings behind some of these parables are clear however the meanings of others are open to various interpretations. The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 24 follows directly after the parable of the Ten Virgins. Both these parables are stated by

Jesus as being illustrations of the kingdom of heaven, an association which may be hard for us to relate to unless we have an understanding of heaven as a state of consciousness.

For it (the Kingdom of Heaven) will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,

to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has

not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:14-30)

What has intriguing in this parable is the employment of the word *talent* which, in the time of Jesus was a monetary unit used throughout the Roman Empire, the Middle East and Greece. Taken literally the parable suggests that we should use our monetary resources to the best of our abilities, not to squander them or let them lie idle. There is an alternative, very different meaning to the word *talent* that derived over a long period from the original meaning of a unit of weight or money to eventually mean a marked ability or skill, so that nowadays we hear of a 'musical talent.' All of us have talents in one form or another, some of us appear to be greatly blest with many talents and in some cases a person is so talented that he or she is considered to be a genius. Our talents are innate; we are born with them.

When we read the parable and apply this new alternative meaning to the word 'talent' we get a greater picture of the sense of this word so that the teaching suggests that we should not ignore our talents but develop and use them, especially in the service to others. Many people in requesting life readings from Edgar Cayce asked about their talents and how they should be developed. In one case of the brilliant young pianist the man's life reading showed how his talent had been gradually acquired in life-times as a musician in Italy, Palestine, Egypt, and Atlantis. In cases like this, one saw how genius is the final flowering of lifetimes of effort and dedication. The Cause was effort over many lifetimes and the consequence was talent, natural ability, for "as you sow, so shall you reap."

Cayce confirmed that we are all blest with talent:

"For each has some talent, some activity in which it may excel in its relationships to others above all others - for some individuals! Hence know that each soul is as precious in the mind or eyes or heart of God as the other"

He pointed out that we must use what we have even if we consider it to be small:

"...for to one He gave five talents, to another two. Are you the one talent man that would hide, knowing that there will be required the reckoning? Rather he that uses himself in service to His fellow man lends to the Lord. Of him will there be given that that makes the success in the mental, in the material, in the spiritual understanding that comes from a life worth while in the vineyard of the Maker."

And we are not expected to give more than we have:

"Use what you have in hand to the glory of Him, and it will be acceptable to Him; for He does not require the application of a ten talent individual from a one talent mind or body."

In a reading given to the Search for God study group, when he was asked what was the best way to obtain one's ideal, Edgar Cayce referred to the parable:

"Then be content with that you have, and use with honour, praise, glory to your ideal that you have, and more and more is given as there is proper use made of that in hand; for, as was given by the Master of masters, 'The kingdom is likened unto a man that making a journey called his servants. To one gave five talents, to another two talents, to another one talent. As they applied themselves, so did they obtain that, not as favour, but as understanding - and so rewarded, as called to account for that held in hand. So, obtaining the ideal is

making use - spiritual use, first - for Seek first the kingdom and all these things are added unto you."

Through his psychic abilities Edgar Cayce was able to identify the talents of individuals who sought his guidance. These talents uncovered were a very broad spectrum of human capabilities:

(Q) *Is there any special talent I might develop now, or some special work which would satisfy unrest?*

(EC) *As has been indicated, be active in the instruction to the young, or to those of the teen age, - or to those that would seek dramatic outlet, or expression.*

(Q) *What particular talent, or talents, should be expressed in this life?*

(EC) *The making of peace!*

(Q) *What is most pronounced and useful talent?*

(EC) *For the present, healing!*

(Q) *What hobbies will benefit me most in developing any latent talent or ability I may possess?*

(EC) *The study of stones, - especially precious stones.*

(Q) *What talents, if any, does this entity possess?*

(EC) *The most is its ability to wield or yield an influence upon all with whom it comes in contact! This is a talent that may be used for weal or woe, to be sure.*

(Q) *What talent have I that I should develop to the greatest extent?*

(EC) *That of showing love for the unfolding minds of the young.*

(Q) *Can you tell what is this body's natural talent?*

(EC) *To develop along the lines of any creative forces, the natural gift is that of the artistic temperament in all of its branches.*

(Q) *Should the talent for writing be developed?*

(EC) *Talent for writing, and especially the talent of ministering to others in their needs. And these find a way of expression in the writing. Then most of*

all, know innately within yourself that there are those activities that make for and bring the how, the manner, the way. That you have innately in thine inner self is expressed. For, as given, many will ever be influenced by what you give out.

(Q) What is the special talent of this body, Mr. Cayce? (EC) Designation.

(Q) Will you explain that, Mr. Cayce, please?

(EC) Giving others, or centralizing force for others as to what they should do. That is, she can choose between the good and the bad for other individuals. She is specially gifted and should use the talent to help others in this way. Fit them for the things they are good for.

(Q) Is spiritual healing a gift, or is it a talent we have developed from our past lives?

(EC) Both. All force, all power, comes from the same source To some is given the power of healing, to some the speaking of tongues, to some that of

ministry, to some that of another - each as they have built in their experience, and as they seek to be used as a channel of blessings through that they have built for themselves does the blessing come to others. Being free, then let that not become a stumbling block to some. Rather let those efforts of self be in Him, that all blessings may come to those in their respective ways

As it is would be a great advantage if we could identify and become aware of our talents, some of which may be well hidden, it is unfortunate that we no longer have the services of Edgar Cayce to call upon and help us identify them. Possibly then it may be worthwhile for those of us who feel that they do not have any talent or special abilities to seek help from career counselors and life coaches or suchlike to assist in this identification. In any case we are reminded again and again to use what is at hand! - BDA
ΩΩΩ

THE EVOLVING SOUL?

This morning while reading the ACIM text I came across the following in chapter 8:VI 'The Treasure of God': "Listen to the story of the prodigal son, and learn what God's treasure is and yours: This son of a loving father left his home and thought he had squandered everything for nothing of any value, although he had not understood its worthlessness at the time. He was ashamed to return to his father, because he thought he had hurt him. Yet when he came home the father welcomed him with joy, because the son himself was his father's treasure. He wanted nothing else." This seems to be in line with the Genesis story of the fall of man. John van Auken wrote "The story of our creation, fall, banishment, and long, slow journey home is recorded in many sacred books in many cultures. There's a pattern to all

souls' journeys. For example, the pattern in the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic theology, as described in our scriptures . . . "

In her book 'Beyond Soul Growth' Author and speaker Lynn Sparrow Christy discusses the concepts of evolutionary spirituality and the roles we all play in elevating consciousness here on earth that will take our spiritual growth to a new level. She states that, based on her interpretations of the Edgar Cayce readings, our souls, rather than being perfect spiritual beings, are in fact evolving.

So, on the surface, there seems to be a disagreement between what Christy was advocating - that our spiritual selves are evolving - as against the Biblical and ACIM claim that we were created perfect in the beginning but turned away from

our creator and ended up getting tangled up in the physical world and are taking a long journey back to our spiritual home where we began.

In a way this is a similar situation with the long running debate over creation versus evolution. There has been seemingly overwhelming evidence that physical evolution has been taking place ever since the earth was first formed. An argument can therefore be made that as with physical life, spiritual life is also evolving. When it comes to the physical we can understand that new generations gradually improved over the previous ones so that the physical body we have today is somewhat different from the physical bodies people had in the distant past. That may be so, but what about the fact that through the process of reincarnation the same souls inhabit these different bodies? Do our souls evolve with the evolving bodies or are they the same souls that were created in the beginning? This is probably a topic we can debate as long as the debate over evolution and creation continues.

In an ARE web page in answer to the question: "Just what is reincarnation?" the answer given was: "It

is the belief that each of us goes through a series of lifetimes for the purpose of *spiritual growth and soul development*." So we may see 'spiritual growth and soul development' as evolution. So the same could be said about a child who grows and develops over time so that he 'evolves' over time.

The ACIM text makes a distinction between things created and things made. God created us and so we are co-creators with God. Anything created is permanent whereas things made are always temporary. Our bodies were made from dust and will return to dust whereas our spirits were created and so are eternal.

Getting back to the statement of Christy suggesting that there was no fall and that our journey is not to get back to a situation that once existed but rather that humanity, or as some call it the 'Sonship', is evolving. Perhaps in the end it does not really matter whether we believe we are taking this spiritual journey to get back to our original relationship with God or to create a new relationship with Him but rather the journey itself is the all important thing. *BDA ΩΩΩ*.

THE CAB RIDE I'LL NEVER FORGET

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. One time I arrived in the middle of the night for a pick up at a building that was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.

I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knick-knacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to

the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes were glistening.

"I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighbourhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newly-weds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now." We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that

passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers."

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

- Kent Nerburn, from his book *"Make Me an Instrument of your Peace: Living in the Spirit of the Prayer of St. Francis"*

ΩΩΩ



CHILDREN AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

The Edgar Cayce readings state that we choose our families, our parents, and even make agreements, where possible, to choose our spouses and children. When children are born they have just left the spiritual realm. It also appears that from the spirit world they bring into this world memories of their recent past which are fresh at the time of birth but fade over time. The following are some stories submitted to us on this subject.

Our youngest said to me when he was less than two years old--"I chose you ya know." He also stated once after the rain that it smelled like angel. I totally believe they remember heaven ... what else do you need?

When my daughter was about 3 years old in a conversation she said that she liked it when she was in heaven! I was a little sad that day because she had said to me that she wished her daddy was home with us, like other children (we got divorced when she was a new born). Then she said to me, "But that's OK, because I knew it would be like this!" I asked her what did she mean by that, she then answered me: "Mommy, when I was in heaven, I picked you! And I knew we were going to be alone, so, that's OK, don't worry mommy, I love

you so much!"

When my son was about 4 we went into a Walmart we had never been in before. The door greeter, an elderly black man, greeted us with a smile and "hello, welcome to Walmart" and my son got so excited. He threw his hand up and waved and said exuberantly, "Heyyyy! How ARE you??!!" As if he were greeting an old friend he hadn't seen in years. He was usually very shy of strangers so this caught me off guard. Then without missing a beat, he looked at me excitedly and said, "He was my friend, I knew him when I was in heaven with God." I was totally speechless as was the man.

My grandson Lukas is only six and he said to me: "Did you ever think maybe this is really our dream and when we dream it's our real life?" It floored me as I always think the same thing!

When my 11 year was just two. We were going through a personal hardship. One day when getting her out of bed, she said, "You're dad is your angel and he loves you." My father died 9 years before she was born, and I had never told her about him. Although she knew he was there. Truly blessed! ΩΩΩ

A SEARCH FOR GOD

LESSON 2 - KNOW THYSELF

This is the second of articles submitted to the Journal on the Edgar Cayce 'A Search for God' series lessons.

(1) INTRODUCTION

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it." (*John 17:16*)

What this verse is saying is that Jesus Christ revealed to us that we are

spiritual beings belonging to a more Higher Dimension than the three-dimensional Earth. We are aware that we live on Earth but do we know that we don't belong here on Earth? In answer to the question "What is the main purpose

of this incarnation?" Cayce replied: *"To glorify the Christ Consciousness."* (2441-4). So everyday we must have a Christ-Ideal by holding a Christ-Mind. When we constantly do good works we then glorify the Christ within us. *"You are made strong — in body, in mind, in soul and purpose — by that power in Christ. The power is in the Christ. The pattern is in Jesus."* (2533-7)

(2) HOW DO WE COME TO KNOW OURSELVES?

By knowing what we believe in and act that way.

By having a standard of measurement to guide our thoughts and behaviour.

By measuring ourselves by an ideal - the Christ-Ideal.

By measuring our progress not by what we have, but by what we have given.

(3) WE ARE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL

We are miniature copies of the universe. How is that possible? Because we possess a physical body, a mental body, and a spiritual body. These three bodies are so closely associated and related that the vibrations of one affect the other two.

Yes there is indeed a physical body, a mental body, and a spiritual body, yet they are one: One in LOVE. One in TRUTH. One in SERVICE. And One in GOD.

(4) THE PHYSICAL BODY

Our physical body is the temple of the living God. It has pleased God to manifest Himself in this world. *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16)

We are to be grateful that our soul is manifesting in a physical body at this time on Earth. We are all capable of knowing everything that goes on within

our physical body and without it. This spring of knowledge is tapped only by those who are willing to pay the price. The price is a complete surrender of ourselves to God, with a purification and a dedication that come only through meditation, prayer, and service.

(5) THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL BODY

The desire of our Mental and Spiritual Body builds our Individualities. Individual development has been going on since the beginning when God created us as souls. We are the sum total of all our experiences in every state of consciousness.

"In my Father's house are many rooms" (or states of consciousness) (John 14:2) Heredity, environment, karma, thought vibration, Universal laws influences us but do not control us because we have free Will.

The soul will seek that which it has built, not only in the material plane but in the spiritual plane, for *"Whether a tree falls to the South or to the North in the place where it falls, there will it lie."* (Ecclesiastes 11:3)

This can be interpreted to mean that in whatever state the soul dies, in that state the soul will be found in the eternal world. Death does not refine nor purifies the soul. Death does not add glory to what we have now. So therefore let our continual bent and inclination be to God, to holiness, to charity, to mercy, and to heaven: then when the fall or death comes, we will fall into a safe place.

(6) OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

We have the mind of Christ when we are being channels of blessings to others. The mind of Christ is found in keeping the whole law: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and love your neighbour as yourself."* (Luke 10:27)

There is within us that still Voice that teaches sacrifice, love, and service. When it is listened to and followed, no mistakes are made, no wars are fought, no homes are broken. For then we seek the good of our neighbours and the will of the Creator.

Service is the means of fulfilling our mission here: "Who is this brother or sister that we should serve?" It is he or she who is in need of help, whether he or she be friend or foe, regardless of race or creed. It is following the teachings of the Christ that will lead more and more in the way toward a perfect understanding.

(7) OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

By keeping in touch with God, we rise above the conditions and we know that we are guided by God in all we are called to do.

"If I go up to heaven, Ye are there; if I make my bed in the depths Ye are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me." (Psalm 139:8-10)

Let us awake and know that God is speaking to us, leading us, and protecting us. His Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit - that we are sons and daughters of God. As the voices of our souls cry out to God, let us not doubt the promise: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

(8) THE AWAKENING OF SELF

Our physical bodies, our mental bodies, and our soul bodies are shadows of the Triune. The body-physical is as

Man. The body-mental is as Christ. The body-soul is as the image of God, and made to be a companion in spirit.

(9) PHYSICAL AWAKENING

For us to be aware of our physical desires and appetites is physical awakening. To satisfy them selfishly is sin.

(10) MENTAL AWAKENING

When we become aware that the mind can control the physical desires, then we have a mental awakening. "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." (Daniel 1:8)

(11) SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When we are conscious that we can reconcile the spirit within with the spirit without and know that they are one and are from the same source, God, then we have a spiritual awakening. This was manifested perfectly in Jesus, the Master, in His daily life among men.

(12) CONCLUSION

May we study to show ourselves approved unto God in body, mind, and soul. The Christ stands ready to help. Shall we close the door of our own consciousness?

"Father, as we seek to see and know Thy face, may we each, as individuals and as a group, come to know ourselves, even as we are known, that we - as lights in Thee - may give the better concept of Thy Spirit in this world." (262-5) - KJA, ΩΩΩ



CHRIST IN YOU

Part 1 **Seventeenth Lesson**

Imagination

The body is the covering and the garment of spirit, and you are learning that spirit is ruler. At first you may not see results, but the work begins the instant you function from the spiritual plane. Do not be discouraged – as I was – at not seeing results. I see now that the work of healing was going on, even when things seemed at their worst. You will thank God for the darkness and the struggle; you will prove their real friendliness. Christ's work in you is to proclaim liberty to captive souls, the opening of prison doors to them that are bound. Your body will be the beautiful garment of spirit, for salvation is not in part but wholly.

You ask "What is thought?" Perhaps you have missed the true understanding. Thought is the creative process behind all phenomena. It is not a mental concept, though it finds its avenue through the mentality. The thought is never separated from the thinker. The worlds with all their myriad forms in nature are thoughts expressed by the Absolute. You are God's thought, and so you also manifest love.

At the very heart of life, both universal and individual, is the well-spring of growth, from which all true life evolves. It is the only One, the first cause of all, never outside Its own creation, but self-existent, inseparable from Itself; ever making for perfection and peace. This self of life is sending our rays of intelligence through its many channels, outpouring itself in infinite variety, but always One. The great outer enemy, the senses, would pervert, making separation even of the expressed Being, until as a result of ages of ignorance, man has dared to think of himself as a complete and separate identity, looking on the

suffering of humanity as something outside himself, looking on God as afar off.

God requires outflow from the great central life. This is a law steadily working itself out in the tiniest detail of your earth life. Your planet holds within itself fire, water, and minerals of untold wealth, but it also holds a great invisible interior spiritual force, creative, reconstructive. This is thought, the outcome of the one life, breathing through stone, rock, and densest matter. Man limits himself by his mental process, and hinders the upspring of divine thought. (We see from our side.) Man gets a glimpse of a truth; he immediately begins to make it concise, gives it a form, clothes it by the mental process called reasoning; thus himself closing the avenue by separation from the whole. No truth is a part; there is but one truth. No man can hold all the truth. This is a work for all time.

You would do well to unfold the capacities for receiving by clearing the mind of limitations, beliefs have become bondage, and becoming even as a little child. Otherwise you cannot enter the kingdom. We see so much spiritual force imprisoned behind the closed mental doors of humanity. The spirit of God quickens the intellect, for it becomes enlightened by the true light. Open out to this hidden spiritual life, as the flower is nourished into full bloom by its own hidden forces.

Consider well the flowers of the field; they do not toil in order to blossom forth. You will become calm and steadfast, and the effect in the end will be a great peace both in your body and in your environment. It is God that works in you to will and to do. Man's mentality is

not the place of thought. While the holy seed is unfolding, the work of creation begins in you, as at the beginning of all things. God's thought was your planet. When the life upsprings within you, it requires a place of action to manifest.

That which you call imagination is the ground for the expression of God's thought. You will learn to keep the imagination pure and holy, free from the contamination of the senses; for that which is imagined, afterwards becomes.

Your Scriptures unfold the importance of this, when they describe false imaginings, and speak of imagining mischief. A pure imagination is sometimes called "genius." It is the

mirror of God. Let the Christ have full control of this, that you may awake in His likeness. It will reveal God's meaning to your understanding. Your imagination is God's best gift. The heart and the imagination are closely related – they act and re-act. The heart and the imagination should be pure. This involves real effort, but you will be richly rewarded. You will have the thoughts of God, your mind will reflect them, and enriched and illuminated by the Eternal, you will be conscious of ever fresh unfoldment. You will see, hear, and know only God. This lesson will unfold within you as you read. God is the only reality for all time. ΩΩΩ

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello Brian,

When reading the Rainbow Journal (July 2014) the thought came to me that the articles on oneness and cooperation were related. When we join together as one we cooperate, work together, to achieve common goals. All the benefits that are around us in this modern world are the result of people cooperating to make our lives healthier and easier. On the other hand all the strife, conflict and wars that are taking place today is the result of our not recognising those in other countries as one with us, part of the one human race, and therefore may be treated differently from those we love. - A. Adams

Well Put! - Editor

Hi Brian

Thank you for the wonderful newsletter again. Especially thanks to the two readers who sent in their personal stories. I believe their stories! Please let them know that they are believed. Those of us who do have unusual experiences are often not believed and even thought crazy by others.

I believe that animals have souls as well and there are many reported sightings of animals thought dead who have been there to help someone in need. Just a short story of a strange incident with my cat.

Recently I went on a trip to the UK. We have a black and white cat called Marco who only has one eye. He had to have his eye removed due to some trauma when he was a stray some years ago. Where his eye was, is now just a slit. When away Marco was boarded out in a nice cattery about 10 kms away. On return home our next door neighbour said that he had seen Marco in our yard and his twice – once on his own and once with his wife. This was about a week before our return. The neighbours were concerned as I had told them Marco was going to a cattery, and so they checked carefully to ensure it was Marco. They say that their cat Sooty who spends a lot of time with Marco seemed to recognise him as well. However Marco never left the cattery. The neighbours are adamant that there are no other black and white cats in the area, let alone a one-eyed one! They assumed that we had changed our

mind about the cattery and got a neighbour to feed Marco. After picking Marco up from the cattery on our return – we weren't told of any escapes. He was very clingy and thus appeared very unhappy about being separated from us for a month. Could his unhappiness have brought his spirit back to the house to try and find out where we were?

Its a mystery. *Beth*

Hi Beth,

Thank you for your email and story about your cat.

There is no doubt that both cats and dogs have psychic abilities. As soon as my sister decided to give her dog a bath, which the dog hated, it would get up and hide under the settee. I would not doubt that animals also have souls, which is the spirit of God, in them, so we should not be surprised at what they can do. - Editor ΩΩΩ

THOUGHTS ON THINGS

I DO NOT KNOW MY SELF INTEREST

I would love to win a lottery and get lots of money. Yet I know in my heart that it would not be in my self interest to do so. For the consequences could be quite devastating, despite the dreams of spending lots of money.

LOVE AND ATTACK

As we are all part of the one whole the it stands to reason that when we attack another we are in fact attacking a part of ourselves.

GIVING IS RECEIVING

My experience of this, as well of that of my fellow workers, is in doing unpaid volunteer work. We all find that we seem to get more out of it than we put into it. - Our receiving seems to be greater than our giving!

COMMUNICATING.

Note that when we communicate with animals through love fear disappears. This also works with humans. *BDA ΩΩΩ*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

The police came to my house and said my dog had chased someone on a bike. I said, "You must be joking officer, my dog hasn't got a bike." - Anonymous

Somewhere on this globe, every ten seconds, there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be found and stopped! - Sam Levenson

The lion and the lamb will lie down together - but the lamb won't get much sleep! -Woody Allen

A Zen aspirant went to a Zen master and asked "What happens after death?" The Zen master replied, "I don't know." The practitioner was surprised.

"But you are a master!" he protested. "But I am not a dead master," came the answer.

Recently Pope Francis made a comment that one in fifty priests is a paedophile. This shocking situation may be due in part to the fact that priest are forbidden to marry and therefore may look to other means to disperse their built-up sexual energy. One may then wonder at the wisdom of this rule. One is reminded of the story told in a previous issue of the Journal:

A new monk arrives at an old Italian monastery for his celibate life of shared poverty and prayer, and is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old texts by hand. He

notices, however, that they are copying from copies, not the original manuscripts. So the new monk goes to the head monk to ask him about this, pointing out that if there was an error in the first copy that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies. The head monk says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son." So, he goes down into the cellar with one of the copies to check it against the original. Hours go by and nobody sees him. So, one of the monks goes downstairs to look for him. Hearing sobbing coming from the back of the cellar, he finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books crying, and muttering between tears: "There's an R! There's an R!" He choking voice continued "The original word isn't "celibate" but "celebrate!" - Unknown

ΩΩΩ

OUR CLOSING THOUGHT

“What is it all about then? ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your body, and your neighbour as yourself.’ The rest of all the theories that may be concocted by man are nothing, if these are just lived. Love your neighbour as yourself in the associations day by day, preferring as did the Christ who died on the cross rather than preferring the world be His without a struggle. Know, then, that as He had His cross, so have you. May you take it with a smile. You can, if you will let Him bear it with you. Do it!” 3976-29 ΩΩΩ

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