

PROSPERITY

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Lesson 1

Spiritual Substance, the Fundamental Basis of the Universe

I. What Is Meant By Divine Mind?

- A. Divine Mind is the one and only reality. “*Divine Mind is God-Mind; the ever-present, all-knowing Mind; the Absolute; the unlimited, omnipresent, all-wise, all-loving, all-powerful Spirit*” (The Revealing Word, Charles Fillmore Reference Library).
- B. When we incorporate the ideas that form this Mind into our mind, and persevere in those ideas, a mighty strength wells up within us. As we serve for the joy of serving, prosperity will flow to us and through us. As we use our providing powers of love and zeal, we shall experience support and supply in our lives.

II. What Is Meant By Substance?

- A. Substance is “*the divine idea of the underlying reality of all things. It is everywhere present, pervades all things, and inspires to action. It underlies all manifestation and is the spiritual essence, the living energy out of which everything is made. Divine substance is man’s supply*”. This “*universal substance*”, “*mind substance*”, is “*the omnipresent mind stuff that can be molded to man’s use through his thinking*” (The Revealing Word).
- B. Science postulates space as the source of life. It says that the very air is alive with dynamic forces, invisible and omnipresent energies, intelligent power, radiant rays, that which is referred to as the “ether”, the inter-penetrating essence of all that exists.
- C. Jesus taught about the riches of the kingdom of the heavens, the properties of the “heavens” all around us, that which is called “space” and “ether” by physicists. He taught its dynamic and its intelligent character, and said that “*the kingdom of God is within*

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you” (Luke 17:21 NRSV), and to “*strive first for the kingdom of God and its righteousness...*” (Matthew 6:33 NRSV).

- D. God is Substance, intangible essence, God energy, or Spirit light. The nature of substance is to “sub-stand” or “stand under” or stand behind matter, as its support and only reality.

III. How Do We Lay Hold of ‘Inexhaustible Mind Substance’ in Our Consciousness?

- A. POUR our living words of faith into the omnipresent spiritual substance, and we will be prospered. “TRULY...*if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe, that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you*” (Luke 17:21 NRSV).
- B. PUT the law into action through thought, word, and deed. Turn the energy of our thinking to “plenty” ideas and we will have plenty.
- C. DECREE! “*You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways*” (Job 22:28 NRSV).
- D. SEEK the kingdom of abundance of all things, and be willing to comply with its laws, for if you do it will be found.
- E. UNDERSTAND our relationship to God and to one another as common heirs to the universal resource that is sufficient for all. Give up erroneous ideas about our “rights” and personal possession. “*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;*” (Psalm 24:1 NRSV).
- F. UNDERGO a thorough mental cleansing. Fully dedicate self to the divine guidance. Be obedient to Spirit.
- G. DEVELOP a consciousness of the permanency of the omnipresent substance as it abides within us. GIVE freely, confident in the understanding that our supply is unlimited and always at hand in the omnipresent Mind of God. SEE God as abundant substance waiting to enter into manifestation. Spiritual substance is living bread and water. We that feed on God-Substance shall never hunger nor thirst. REALIZE oneness with God, our all-sufficiency. “*In him we live and move and have our being;*” (Acts 17:28 NRSV). MAINTAIN that spiritual stand.

Lesson 2

Spiritual Mind, the Omnipresent Directive Principle of Prosperity

I. What Is the Nature of An Idea?

- A. Idea is the “*original, primary, or unlimited thought of Being; in God-Mind the eternal Word or Logos*” (The Revealing Word).
- B. Everything that appears in the universe had its origin in mind. Mind evolves ideas. Ideas express themselves through thoughts and words.
- C. Ideas generate thought currents. They must be given first place in our attention, in order to bring about any results of a permanent character. We formulate thoughts, and thoughts move the world.
- D. Ideas are centers of consciousness. They have a positive and a negative pole, and generate thoughts of every conceivable kind.
- E. An idea is capable of statement as a proposition. The statement is made in response to a desire to know experimentally whether the proposition is capable of proof.

Desire is the onward impulse of the ever-evolving soul. We have never had a desire that could not be fulfilled. The very fact that we have an idea in our mind carries with it the possibility of its fulfillment in expression. BEING cannot shirk expression.

II. What Should Our Relationship Be With Spiritual Mind to Experience Prosperous Expressions?

- A. The ideas of Divine Mind can only be expressed when we follow the rules or laws of mind, and these rules require understanding if we are to follow them intelligently and achieve results.
- B. Humankind is given all power and authority over all the ideas of infinite Mind, and the ideas of wisdom and love are two of them. These ideas are the positive and negative pole of the creative Principle. “Male and female created He them.” The ideas of God-Mind are expressed through the combination of wisdom and love.

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- C. We must make union with the Spirit that knows how to handle ideas as substance. We must connect Divine Mind's ideas of substance as unlimited, everywhere present, and equally available to everyone, with our thoughts that material substance is limited. This is accomplished by faith through prayer.
- D. We may think over our financial problems just before going to sleep, and then get a solution in our dreams. When the conscious mind is stilled and we make contact with the super-consciousness, it is within that awareness we are shown how to bring about our desired prosperity. This is the law of mind. The principle is within us, but we must be spiritually quickened in life and understanding before we can successfully work in accord with principle.
- E. The mind in us that reasons and looks to the physical side of things also has the ability to look within. The "within" is "the door", "the way", through which divine ideas must come. The kingdom of the heavens or the kingdom of God is a kingdom of substance, a kingdom of Mind, within us. Give the kingdom our attention. Meditate and pray for an understanding of this omnipresent substance.
- F. Above all things, we must become AWARE of the source of our substance. Recognize the Presence. Give praise and thanks to the Father for spiritual quickening. Affirm that we are alive with the Life of Spirit. Affirm our oneness with divine intelligence. Realize: *"Ye are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;"* (Psalm 82:6 NRSV).
- G. The secret of demonstration is to conceive what is true in BEING, and to carry out the concept in thought, word, and act. The idea of God covers a multitude of creative forces.
1. Jehovah-jireh – "Jehovah will provide".
"So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided" (Genesis 22:14 NRSV).
 2. Jehovah-shammah – "Jehovah is there"; "the Lord is present".
"I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrew 13:5 NRSV).

Lesson 3

Faith in the Invisible Substance, the Key to Demonstration

I. What Is Faith and Its Relation to Substance?

- A. *“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible”* (Hebrews 11:3 NRSV). God had faith when He imaged man and the universe, and through His faith brought all things into being. Humankind, being like God, must also base its creations on faith as the only foundation. This is our starting point in building a prosperity consciousness.
- B. *“Faith is the central faculty in the consciousness of a master. Jesus said that upon it He would build His church, or ecclesia, an aggregation of spiritual ideas”* (Metaphysical Bible Dictionary).
- C. *“Now FAITH is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1 KJV).
- D. *“NOW faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1 NRSV).
- E. Faith is that consciousness in us of the reality of the invisible substance and of the attributes of mind by which we lay hold of it. The mind makes real things. Thoughts and ideas are the eternal realities from which we build our life and our world.
- F. Faith is the perceiving power of the mind linked with a power to shape substance. The office of faith is to take abstract ideas and give them definite form in substance.

II. How Do We Demonstrate Prosperity?

- A. We demonstrate prosperity by building a prosperity consciousness.
- B. We demonstrate prosperity by having faith in the invisible substance.

III. How Can We Put Our Innate Power of Faith to Work As We Build a Prosperity Consciousness?

- A. BE receptive to the things of Spirit. Read Luke 1. Have faith in spiritual truth when we perceive it. If we doubt it, we retard the outer expression. When the two qualities work with prayer, meditation, and aspiration, the soul is open to the higher thoughts.
- B. ATTAIN a high intellectual perception of Truth. The intellect grasps Truth first.
- C. GIVE ourselves entirely to Spirit. As we do so, there will be times when we will do things without knowing exactly why. When this happens, faith is at work in us, and continues to do its perfect work, which eventually brings forth the demonstration.
- D. ACT on strong perceptions of things that your inner mind tells you are true and good, and your demonstration will come. This is the way a living faith works, and it is the law of your creative word.
- E. ADD understanding to faith. Have understanding of the law through which we gain or lose, in our use of the invisible substance. Use our powers of discrimination or judgment.
- F. NOTICE! When Jesus did some of his most remarkable works, he had with him Peter (faith), James (wisdom), and John (love).
- G. ACKNOWLEDGE God in all our ways. Realize that our resource is Spirit, that it is God, and that it is here in all its fullness. Make contact with it in faith. Then we shall find it welling up within us.
- H. PRAY and bless the substance at hand and everything that we have. We can increase and multiply what we have, by speaking words of Spirit and life with power and authority. Talk about substance in a positive, an appreciative, and a large way. Believe in our spiritual qualities.
- I. ASSOCIATE faith with imagination. Whatever you make in mind, and really put faith in, will become substantial.
- J. ENTER into the silence. TURN our attention from things, and have faith in God to demonstrate true prosperity.

Lesson 4

Man, the Inlet and Outlet of Divine Mind

- I. How is Man the Inlet and Outlet of Divine Mind?
 - A. Through the mind of man ideas are brought into being. Through the soul of man God's wealth of love finds its expression.
 - B. Wealth of consciousness will express itself in wealth of manifestation.
 - C. Through the right use of his mental faculties man becomes the perfect inlet and outlet of Divine Mind.
- II. How Do We Demonstrate Principle?
 - A. Those who KNOW Principle have an indisputable inner security given them by the UNDERSTANDING of God-Mind. The clearer our understanding of Truth, the more substantial our mind becomes. To demonstrate Principle, we must keep establishing ourselves in statements of the law (universal rules of action).
 - B. When the one Mind is called into action in our mind by our THINKING about it, it lays hold of the substance by the law of attraction or sympathy of thought.
 - C. The more we KNOW about God, the more successful we will be in handling our body and all our affairs.
 - D. The more we KNOW about God, the healthier, more beautiful, and better we will be in every way.
 - E. It is in our KNOWING how to take hold of the universal substance and mold it to our uses, that we will be prosperous.
 - F. To establish one's self in a definite security, in the possession and use of universal life, love, intelligence, and substance, we must ATTAIN a consciousness of it by first mentally seeing the Truth.
 - G. All happenings are the result of the law of cause and effect. If we FOLLOW God's laws (universal rules of action; spiritual principles; example: the law of love), we will demonstrate Truth.

III. What Are the Rules of the Law?

- A. Firmly fix in mind that God is good, and all God's creations are good. Keep uppermost in mind the idea of universal and eternal goodness. Talk only about the good. Remember that the Father's desire for us is unlimited good. If we can do these things, then we are bound to demonstrate good and nothing but good in our world.
- B. Make the right use of the one divine substance and the divine law. Attain and maintain the consciousness of the Father, and conserve our body substance. Then health and prosperity will become naturally manifest. Remember that substance is the foundation of our world. Be, therefore, secure in our understanding of it, and use it according to God's law.
- C. Realize that our Father is always present, and is constantly giving us just what we will acknowledge and accept under His divine law.
- D. Do all things in divine wisdom and divine order. Seek the divine wisdom to know how to handle our substance and the law of prosperity will be revealed to us.
- E. Be mindful that we all have the ability to perceive and to lay hold of the ideas inherent in God-Mind, and through faith bring them into manifestation.
- F. Develop stabilizing ideas. One of them is continuity or loyalty to Truth. Nothing so tends to stabilize and unify all the other faculties of mind as love. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength*" (Mark 12:30).
- G. Think of God as everywhere present substance. Think, always, about God as your real supply. Abide in your highest ideals. Be loyal to Principle. Have faith in the all-providing substance of good. Think prosperity, talk prosperity. Give thanks for plenty in all your affairs, knowing for a certainty that your good is now being fulfilled in Spirit, in mind, and in manifestation.
- H. Through conscious recognition of your oneness with the Father and His abundance, you draw the living substance into visible supply.

Lesson 5

The Law That Governs the Manifestation of Supply

- I. What Is Meant By Law?
 - A. Law is a rule of action, or a rule of conduct, or an order which is advisable to follow to obtain the highest results.
 - B. Law is one of the most important things to study, because as we come to understand it, we can comply with its requirements and demonstrate our divine possibilities through it.
 - C. Moses represents the negative side of the law that precedes its affirmative expression. Moses, the lawgiver, gave the law as “Thou shalt not”. He could not go into the Promised Land (the four-dimensional state of consciousness; “a realization of divine substance”), because there can be no negation there.
 - D. Jesus represents the law in its affirmative expression: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God”. Joshua, like Jesus, represents the law in its affirmative expression. That is why Joshua was able to enter the Promised Land.
 - E. Entering the Promise Land is the first step in mind toward that full consciousness of the omnipresence and omnipotence of God that was attained in Jesus.
 - F. SEE this four-dimensional world within, with its innate capacity for all things. Within and all around us, substance is ready for our “eating” (mental appropriation). The “breaking of bread” is the “stirring into action, in consciousness, of the inner substance of Spirit (bread) and the concentrating of mind on it as the real possession” (The Revealing Word). All that ever was or ever could be is waiting to be brought forth into manifestation.
 - G. The one law of God is within us. In Jeremiah 31:33 it is recorded: “...says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts”. We know the one law by an inner intelligence.

II. How Do We Work With the One Law of God to Manifest Supply?

- A. The infinite, creative Mind has given us all a key to the workings of the one unfailing inner law. Remember that everything we touch mentally or physically represents substance and that it is limited only by our thought capacity.
- B. Develop our understanding and appreciation of this one law of unfolding substance.
- C. Love the Lord, love our neighbor as ourselves, and love our work. Give thanks for our talents.
- D. Meditate quietly and affirm the Presence and Power of the great Giver of all. Ask God for rich ideas (substance). Pray for as much as you can handle. Accept the great Giver's gifts, give thanks for all supply, then put God's gift to work in your life.
- E. Stop looking to the without, and look within for supply. Fix the mind on God as an ever-present Spirit that is also Substance and Power. Keep your eyes on the abundant inner reality.
- F. Attain oneness, wholeness, with the Christ Mind. Hold that you are one with the all-providing substance, and that your prosperity runs to overflowing. Remain true to this inner life no matter what the outer appearance might be.
- G. Be mindful that when imagination and will (the executive power of the mind) work together, all things are possible unto us.
- H. Establish order. Degree: "Let there be light" (understanding), and "Let there be a firm place in mind" (a dividing of the true from the apparent).
- I. Pray affirmatively, for those are the prayers of faith.
- J. Give up all anxiety, and trust in the Lord, holding in mind that we are to work with God. We are to form what God has created.
- K. Do all things to the glory of God seven days a week.

Lesson 6

Wealth of Mind Expresses Itself in Riches

I. What Is Prosperity?

- A. Prosperity is “*the condition of being successful or thriving; economic well-being*” (Webster’s Dictionary).
- B. Prosperity is “*the consciousness of God as the abundant, everywhere present resource, unfailing, ready for all who open themselves to it through faith. Prosperity is based on the conscious possession of the idea of God’s abundance back of all things*” (The Revealing Word).
- C. Spiritual prosperity is “*founded on understanding of the inexhaustible, omnipresent substance of Spirit as the Source of supply*”. Material prosperity is “*the belief that the possession of things constitutes prosperity*” (Revealing Word).
- D. Prosperity is in the recognition of supply, and in the knowledge of free and open access, to an inexhaustible storehouse of all that is good or desirable.

II. What Are the Prosperity Laws Given to Us by Jesus?

- A. “*Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*” (Matthew 6:33). Get into the prosperity thought and you will demonstrate prosperity. Cultivate the habit of thinking about abundance everywhere present, in the forms of imagination and in forms in the outer.
- B. “*Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s*” (Mark 12:17). Put things in their right relation, the spiritual first and the material following, rendering each where it belongs.

III. What Are Additional Prosperity Rules of Action?

- A. Realize that prosperity is a condition brought about by ideas (useful, constructive, and of service to the well-being of all human-kind ideas) that have been allowed to RULE in the consciousness.
- B. Cultivate ideas of abundance. Use them. Do whatever comes to you to do, cheerful and competent in the doing.
- C. Eliminate anxious and fearful thoughts, by attaining the perfect enthusiasm of a little child, coupled with the realization of unlimited resources.
- D. Eliminate all negative thoughts that come into your mind. Give much of your time to the clear realization of the everywhere present and waiting substance and life.
- E. Claim your spiritual identity and your oneness with all humankind. Remember that your inheritance is from your Spiritual Parent God. You are the heir to all that the Father has.
- F. Take the control of mind substance away from the sense man and give it to the spiritual man.
- G. Commune with God. Have faith in the Spirit of God within you.
- H. Ask God for new ideas. Prepare your consciousness to receive the increase, before you ask for the increase.
- I. Make your statements broad and comprehensive to Infinite Mind, so that your mind may expand to the Infinite, giving Infinite Mind freedom to work, to provide you with every good and needful thing.
- J. Form the habit of blessing everything you have.

Lesson 7

God Has Provided Prosperity for Every Home

- I. What Is the Connecting Link Between Love and Prosperity in the Home?
 - A. LOVE IS GOD. *“Love is the pure essence of BEING that binds together the whole human family. Love joins and binds in divine harmony the universe and everything in it. Love is the great healer. Love is an inner quality that sees good everywhere and in everybody”* (The Revealing Word).
 - B. *“Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law”* (Romans 13:10).

- II. What Attitudes of Mind Will Manifest Prosperity in the Home?
 - A. The home must be aglow with God’s love. It is the law of love that we have whatsoever we desire.
 - B. Discard all negative thoughts and words. Do not allow any words of poverty or lack to limit the attractive power of love. Select thoughts and words charge with the idea of plenty, for like attracts like in the unseen as well as the seen.
 - C. Build up a positive thought atmosphere in the home that is free from fear and filled with love. *“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;”* (I John 4:18).
 - D. Be thankful for every blessing, every demonstration, and every unexpected treasure. Praise and thanksgiving impart the quickening spiritual power that produces increase in all things. You should expect prosperity when you keep the prosperity law.
 - E. Be patient. *“Love is patient ... kind ... not envious or boastful or arrogant ... or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It ... hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends”* (I Corinthians 13:4-8).

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- F. Use wisdom.
- G. Live the simple life, a consciousness of peace, contentment, and satisfaction in the joy of living and loving. This simple life is attained through thinking about God and worshipping God in spirit and in truth.
- H. Make peace with others. Cultivate love for all humankind in order to set the attractive force of love into operation.
- I. Forgive.
- J. Make friends with the money powers. Do not envy the rich.
- K. Never condemn those who have money because they have it and you do not. Do not question how they got their money. **PUT YOUR POWER OF THOUGHT ON YOUR OWN BUSINESS.** Your business is to get what belongs to you, by thinking about the omnipresent substance of God, and how you can lay hold of it through love.
- L. Be not anxious. Do not worry. Quietly and confidently affirm the drawing power of divine love as the constantly active magnet that attracts your unfailing supply.
- M. Use your spiritual power of will to be persistent in making demonstrations. Know and remember that God's will is health, happiness, and prosperity for all mankind.
- N. Pray the Lord's Prayer, which is a series of strong affirmations to "establish in consciousness a broad understanding of the divine principles on which all life and existence depend. By affirming Truth, we are lifted out of the false thinking into the consciousness of Spirit" (The Revealing Word).

Lesson 8

God Will Pay Your Debts

- I. What Is the Law and Its Nature That Prepares the Way for God to Pay Our Debts?
 - A. The law that prepares our consciousness for God to pay our debts is forgiveness, an infallible law of mind, the law that one thought must be dissolved before another can take its place.
 - B. Forgiveness means to cast out thoughts that someone has wronged you, so that you can let in the cleansing power of Spirit and the richness of spiritual substance.
 - C. “Forgiveness is a process of giving up the false for the true; erasing sin and error from the mind and body. Sin is the falling short of divine law. It is through forgiveness that true spiritual healing is accomplished” (The Revealing Word).
 - D. “Forgiveness means the giving up of something you should not do. True forgiveness is only established through renewing of the mind and body with thoughts and words of Truth” (Dynamics for Living, Charles Fillmore).

- II. What Is the Nature of Thought?
 - A. “Thought clothes itself in a life form.” “Thoughts are capable of expressing themselves” (The Revealing Word).
 - B. “Thoughts are things” and occupy space in the mind realm. They have substance and form. They bring forth fruit according to the seed planted in the mind, but they are not enduring unless founded in Spirit.
 - C. “Thought is the action, or process of thinking” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary 11th edition).

- III. What Are Ways of Thinking and Attitudes of Mind That Will Allow God to Pay Our Debts?
- A. Make room in your consciousness for God's light of protection, by building walls of love and substance around you. Do this by sending out thoughts of love and trust to those you have thought of as having wronged you, to those you are suspicious of, and to those you distrust.
 - B. Judge not others as regards their guilt or innocence. Hold in mind, that our first work in any demonstration is to contact God, to do so we must forgive (cleanse our mind of all transgressions). Forgive all others and self of all sin. Sin is "*missing the mark*" of truth; "*falling short of divine perfection*"; our "*failure to express the attributes of BEING ... God qualities*" (The Revealing Word).
 - C. Hold self firmly to the Christ Spirit, your divine self.
 - D. Cease thinking that any person owes you anything. The thought of debt is a contradiction of the universal equilibrium. There is no debt in Spirit and in Truth. Debts exist in the mind; they must be abolished in the mind, before their outer manifestations will pass away and stay away. Loose them, and let them go. Fill our mind with thoughts of all-sufficiency.
 - E. Erase from our mind thoughts of "mine and thine" that generate debts and interest. See abundance everywhere, and affirm it for self and for everyone else. The idea of abundance will help pay the debts of others, as well as bring its fruits into your own life.
 - F. Food for thought, see page 122. "God's Love sees you always well, happy, and abundantly provided for; but God's Wisdom demands that order and right relation exist in your mind before it may become manifest in your affairs as abundance. His Love would give you your every desire, but His Wisdom ordains that you forgive your debtors before your debts are forgiven."
 - G. Eliminate worry. Free your mind from the burden of debt before the debt can be paid. Affirm: "*I owe no man anything but love*", in order to build up such a strong consciousness of the healing and

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enriching power of God's Love that you can live and work peacefully and profitably with everyone.

- H. Free your mind of thoughts of lack, impatient desire, covetousness, criticism, and condemnation. Fill your mind with thoughts of divine love, justice, peace, and forgiveness.
- I. Surrender all your debts, your doubts, and your fears, to God. Declare: "*Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want.*" Realize the scope of the vast truth that Almightyness is leading you into "*green pastures ... beside still waters*".
- J. Thank God for your freedom from the debt burden thought. Hold self in the consciousness of God's leadership abundance. Maintain faith in God. Use good judgment and wisdom in the management of all your affairs.
- K. Yield not to the temptation of "easy-payment plans". Do not undertake an obligation, unless you are prepared to meet it promptly and willingly when it comes due. Affirm: "*Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want this thing until it comes to me in divine order*".
- L. Bless your creditors with the thought of abundance.
- M. Think and speak well of all who owe you. Cultivate a genuine feeling of love for them, and respect their integrity in spite of all appearance. Declare abundant supply for them and thus help them to prosper. Pray for their good as well as for your own.
- N. Forgive always the error thought that anyone owes us money, and that we would be losing money by canceling the debt. Fill our mind with the consciousness that divine abundance is now becoming manifest everywhere in the world. "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof*" (Psalm 24:1).
- O. Desire to be free from debt. Realize that debt has no legitimate place in God's kingdom. Be determined to erase the thought of debt entirely from your mind. Meditate and pray daily, think only of that which you want to demonstrate. Thank God for His care and guidance, for His provision and plenty, for His love and wisdom, for His infinite abundance and your privilege to enjoy it.

Lesson 9

Tithing, the Road to Prosperity

I. What Is Meant by Tithing?

- A. Under the Mosaic Law, a tithe (or tenth) was required as the Lord's portion. Throughout the Hebrew Bible, the tithe is mentioned as a reasonable and just return to the Lord, by way of acknowledging Him as the Source of Supply. After Jacob's vision of the ladder with angels ascending and descending on it, he set up a pillar and made a vow to the Lord saying, "Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee". In Malachi (the third chapter), we find the blessing of God directly connected with faithfulness in giving to the Lord's treasury.
- B. Our gifts should be made because one loves to give, not from a sense of duty or for the sake of reward.
- C. The tithe may be a tenth part of one's salary, wage, or allowance, of the net profits of business, or of money received from the sale of goods. It is based on every form of supply. It should be set apart for the upkeep of some spiritual work or workers. It should be set apart first, before personal expenses, for in the right relation of things God comes first always.

II. What Are the Laws That Govern Giving?

- A. "*Freely ye received, freely give.*" True giving is the love and generosity of the Spirit-quicken heart responding to the love and generosity of the Father's heart.
- B. "*Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, says Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*"

III. What Were Paul's Views on Giving?

- A. Giving is a grace that adds to the spiritual growth of all humankind in all times. When giving is practiced as a part of Christian living,

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the soul expands and becomes Godlike in the grace of liberality and generosity.

- B. Paul classes the grace of giving with faith, knowledge, and love. He suggested a practical plan for exercising this grace of giving. *“Upon the first day of the week, let each member contribute to the establishing of a treasury. This was to be the Lord’s storehouse, into which each one was to put his offerings regularly and in proportion to his means.”*
- IV. What Are the Things That Should Be Observed for the Plan of Giving to be Successful?
- A. Have a willing mind. Be a cheerful giver. Give freely. There is a promise of increase as we recognize the universal scope of the law.
 - B. The giving must be done in faith, and there must be no withholding because the offering seems small.
 - C. The offering shall be a just and fair proportion of all that one receives.
- V. What Are the Blessings That Follow the Practice of Tithing?
- A. True spiritual giving rewards with a double joy: first that which come with the laying of the gift upon the altar or in the Lord’s treasury; then the joy of sharing our part of God’s bounty.
 - B. The act of giving complies with the divine law, because it involves the recognition of God as the giver of all increase. As we recognize the Source of our supply, we have assurance of using it continuously.
 - C. The great promise of prosperity is that if we seek God and God’s righteousness first, then all things shall be added unto us. Tithing is one of the most practical ways of seeking God’s kingdom first.
 - D. Tithing establishes a method in giving, and brings into the consciousness a sense of order and fitness that will be manifested in one’s outer life, as increased efficiency and greater prosperity.
 - E. The practice of tithing is the continual “letting go” of what one receives, which keeps one’s mind open to the good.

Lesson 10

Right Giving, the Key to Abundant Receiving

- I. What Is the Law of Giving and Receiving?
 - A. The law of giving and receiving is a law of mind action, that which can be learned, applied, and proven.
 - B. It is a rule of thinking, doing, living, and being.
 - C. The law of giving and receiving that Jesus taught, “Give, and it shall be given unto you”, is found to be applicable to all our commercial and social relationships.

- II. What Must We Understand About the Law of Giving and Receiving for It to Be Most Effective in Our Lives?
 - A. Things we see outwardly are the effects that have arisen from causes that are invisible to us. There is an inner (mental condition) and an outer (material condition) to everything.
 - B. Things have a spiritual as well as a material identity; the spiritual is the cause side and of greatest value. We have taken the letter or appearance side of the Jesus Christ doctrine and materialized it to fit our beliefs and customs.
 - C. The correctness of the solution of any problem is assured by the right relation of its elements. All true reform begins with the individual.
 - D. There is one undeviating law of mind action and all thinking and all speaking is amenable to it. The power of thoughts and words bring results in accordance with the ideas back of them. Jesus said: “By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shall be condemned”.
 - E. The remedy for all ills lies in constructive thinking and conformity to the divine law.

III. How Can We Best Apply the Law of Giving and Receiving?

- A. Eliminate from our mind all selfish ideas, along with all other discordant vibrations that produce non harmony. Resolve to be unselfish and just. Let all things be done with right motive, right thinking, and just action.
- B. Realize that the law of giving and receiving is a divine law of equilibrium in financial matters, that corresponds to the law of balance and poise that holds the suns and the planets in place. The law of giving and receiving is based on love and justice.
- C. Realize that the law of giving and receiving restores a harmony and balance in both mind and body, resulting in happiness and health as well as prosperity.
- D. Deny (erase from consciousness) any beliefs in avarice and covetousness. Affirm the universal sway of divine love and justice.
- E. Work with any fears and doubts by holding steadily to the thought of the omnipresence of universal supply, its perfect equilibrium and swift action in filling every apparent vacuum or place of lack.
- F. Practice giving, even though it may be in a small way. Be open to the flow of the pure substance of BEING that balances all things, by giving in a spirit of love and cheerfulness.
- G. Think not that your giving is bestowing charity. Everything belongs to God, and all God's children are equally entitled to it. See yourself as a steward of God.
- H. Give something in return for the good that has been given to you. Think about generosity. Begin to be generous for your own sake.
- I. Cultivate ideas of abundance. Claim God as your inexhaustible resource.

Lesson 11

Laying Up Treasures

- I. What Is Meant By Laying Up Treasures From Both the Material and Spiritual Points of View?
 - A. Everywhere in nature there is stored-up energy substance, ready to be called into expression to meet every need. This reserve force is spiritual. Spiritually awakened people know that all riches are spiritual, and within the reach of all as divine ideas. Consequently, they build up a large reserve consciousness of substance, life, strength, and power, rather than laying up material treasures that “moth and rust consume” and “thieves break through and steal”.
 - B. Any form of error thinking is a waste of substance, an incorrect conception and violation of the divine law of conservation.
 - C. Humankind is the apex of creation, God’s image and likeness, endowed with full authority and dominion over our thoughts. We are to demonstrate the divine idea of perfection. A part of the divine plan is substantial provision, by the Creator, for all the mental and physical needs of His creation. We must learn to develop the faculty that will bring prosperity and the character that is not spoiled by prosperity.
- II. What Is the Faculty That Will Bring Prosperity and Spiritual Character?
 - A. Faith is the power of mind that deals with the universal-substance idea. Everything in God is ideal, without form or shape but with all possibilities. God is omnipresent in our mind and in our body. It is the power of the mind called faith that lays hold of the substance idea and makes it visible. FAITH brings God into visible manifestation.
 - B. Faith is “the perceiving power of the mind linked with the power to shape substance. Faith is spiritual assurance; the power to do the seemingly impossible; a magnetic power that draws unto us our heart’s desire from the invisible spiritual substance.

III. What Are Activities of Mind That Will Manifest Prosperity?

- A. Keep in mind that the gold and silver that God promised were spiritual rather than material. God is mind, and mind can give only ideas. Ideas can be translated into anything we desire, according to our thought. The only gold that can be trusted to bring happiness is the gold of Spirit.
- B. It is written in I Timothy 6:10 that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”. By loving money, we have in some way limited it. We are to love the true Source of money, thereby making love the magnet of supply.
- C. We should know that there is a universal money substance, and that it belongs to all of us in all its fullness. The real possessor of wealth is the one who feels that all things are his/hers to use and to enjoy, yet does not burden self with the personal possession of anything.
- D. Seek first God’s kingdom and its righteousness; and all things will be added to you.
- E. Overcome fear of future lack. Put faith fully in the teaching and promises of the Master.
- F. Do not hoard money. Ask the Lord for our “daily” bread and expect to have it. Money is to be used, not abused. Have the right idea about the source of riches as spiritual, and about the constancy of supply as an ever-present, freely flowing spiritual substance.
- G. Be mindful that it is hard for a “rich man” to enter into the kingdom of heaven. He has laid up treasures on earth and not enough in heaven. He has not made it possible for his mind to lay hold of the positive pole of wealth, the true idea of wealth. He is holding to the negative side of the wealth idea, the side that is always changing. Material things pass away unless they are firmly connected with the unchanging, positive Source.
- H. Deny (cleanse) out of mind every thought of lack, and affirm the abundance of all good, infinite substance, that infinite Mind has given to you. By faith, bring it forth into manifestation.

Lesson 12

Overcoming the Thoughts of Lack

- I. What Is Meant By The Kingdom of Heaven?
 - A. The kingdom of heaven is “the realm of divine ideas, producing their expression, perfect harmony. The kingdom of heaven is the kingdom of God, the Christ consciousness” - The Revealing Word.
 - B. The kingdom of heaven is “within us. It is that realm in man’s consciousness where he knows and understands God” – The Revealing Word.
 - C. The kingdom of heaven is an infinite, omnipresent wisdom within us that will deal with our thoughts, and guide us in making the discrimination between the right and the wrong, when we trust ourselves fully to its intelligence.
 - D. The kingdom of heaven is the Christ consciousness; the mind of the Spirit; the ideal or heavenly realm.
 - E. Jesus called the kingdom of heaven that positive realm of thought.
 - F. The kingdom of heaven is not a place, but the free activity of the super-conscious nature of the mind of humankind.
 - G. We can establish a connection between the conscious nature of our mind and the super-conscious nature of our mind by meditation, the silence, and speaking the word.

- II. What Must We Do to Overcome Thoughts of Lack?
 - A. Be willing to LET the Mind of Spirit guide us in perfect ways, even in the minute details of our life. Will to do the Will of God. TRUST Divine Mind in all our ways. FOLLOW Divine Guidance. If we do so, we will be led successfully into, happiness, and prosperity.

Prosperity

- B. Be mindful that thoughts are things, and they occupy “space” in mind. A mental house cleaning is more necessary than a material one, for the outer is a reflection of the within.
- C. Science tells us that each of us has enough energy within us to run a universe if we knew how to release and control it. We do this releasing and controlling it, by a process of letting go and taking hold.

We let go of old thoughts and conditions after they have served their purpose. We then take hold of the new ideas and inspirations that come from the super-conscious mind, and create new conditions to meet one’s requirements. Our mind must be cleansed before the affirmative Christ consciousness, spiritual law, can be revealed to our consciousness.

- D. Be mindful that all power is given unto us in heaven and in earth through our thoughts. We must carefully choose what thoughts we are going to loose in the mind, and what thoughts we are going to bind, for they will come into manifestation in our affairs.
- E. Remember: “As he (man) thinks within himself, so is he”, and “whatsoever a man sows (in the mind), that shall he also reap (in the realm of manifestation). Loose all thoughts of lack, and lay hold of thoughts of plenty.
- F. Realize that we live in a sea of inexhaustible substance that is ready to come into manifestation when molded by our thought. Plenty is here, all around, and when we have opened the eyes of Spirit within us, we will see plenty and rejoice.
- G. Every atom in this so-called material universe has within it superabundant life elements. God is life and Spirit, and God is in every atom. We release this spiritual life quality by denying the crust of materiality that surrounds the cells, and affirming that they are Spirit and life. This is the new birth, which takes place first as a conception in the mind, followed by an outworking in body and affairs.
- H. The first step in getting our mind free is to GET a clear perception of our right as a child of God. PUT no other gods or powers before the true God. PUT our faith in God.