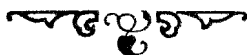


# "Examine Me, O Lord, and Prove Me."



PAPER NO. 48

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DECEMBER, 1932

FROM the replies being received to what was requested in the November Paper, it seems necessary to continue our heart-to-heart talk.

First, we wish to thank you for the many loving expressions and tangible evidences that came straight from the heart in response to our endeavor to learn who were those who truly belonged in the Work. These replies, along with those to the questions in Paper No. 45, helped us to know the Real Ones without question or doubt; which was the principal object of both requests.

There were some that took the last Paper and the enclosed Pamphlet almost as a personal matter and as intended specially for them, forgetting they were sent to several hundred others. But if it served to bring them face to face with a situation of most vital importance to their souls' future, and they were made to realize just what this Work means and has meant from the beginning, their reaction will prove a blessing and will hasten them on to the goal.

We are glad to say that the replies of only a few showed that they had never really been in the Work, that they had no idea of what It is, were not ready for It, and therefore had got very little from It; even though they had received all the Papers and had seemed to appreciate and want them.

To all who are uncertain as to their present status and are concerned about it, what follows herein will help to quiet their fears and to make them realize that it is only their human minds that are concerned, and that *their souls know*; and if they will but turn within and *be still*, and will wait upon their souls as they read what follows, they will learn many things *from within*, which formerly they had failed to comprehend.

We ask all of you now to get quiet and to read more with your souls than with your minds. Of course your minds will have to receive it, but require them to pass it immediately within to you in your soul consciousness.

Try to look back introspectively to where and what you were before you contacted this Work. See yourselves as you were then, and then think of what you see and know now. Note the difference and how you have gradually unfolded to your present consciousness, where you are living in an entirely new and different world from what seemed to you then the only world.

We are not speaking of earthly or human knowledge gained in the interim, but of that knowledge of the Soul, of Life, of God, and of their intimate relation to you; of their purpose and part in your life, and of how they have become of supreme importance in your consciousness.

What drew you into this Work was our invitation to accompany us to the Kingdom, to which we promised to lead you. It was something deep within you that responded, was it not? That something was your soul, the *real* you. And has not that real you been pushing you on ever since, despite your hanging back at times, hesitating for fear you could not keep up with your companions; or because your mind rebelled at doing what was re-

quired—because of its being too lazy?

But the soul of you persisted and drove you on relentlessly, pointing out each new truth as it came to you in the Papers, compelling you to meditate on it, until it became more or less fixed in your consciousness; and then tried to have you *prove it by using it in the problem it brought before you to handle*. If you refused or hesitated, it let you suffer or endure the trouble or in-harmony caused by the problem. Finally when it got you to face the problem so it could point you the lesson it contained; how to use the truth just learned, and also to gain the lacking spiritual qualities that made possible that particular problem, you began to recognize this compelling force within, its wisdom, and what it was making you accomplish.

From this time on you began more and more to heed and obey the soul's leading and not to rebel as formerly, for you had learned the folly of such rebellion. Then you gradually became aware in a different way—saw with a new light and a new understanding—those truths that now stood out so plainly in the papers. This new light and understanding also enabled you in undefinable ways at times to connect up with that inner force of the soul, to get back in its consciousness; and at such times to work with it, so that what you were doing became easy and you felt within and back of you an infinite wisdom and power on which you could call whatever the need.

We are recalling all this to you for a special purpose. For some time back you have actually been considering these facts in your soul consciousness, and we now call it to your attention to see if you realize it and can note the difference between such and your brain mind's consciousness.

IN THE November Paper we spoke of who "We" are, and showed you clearly what you are a part of and your relation to Us. We are earnestly hoping that all that was shown you made so profound an impression upon your minds that its truth has been prominent in their consciousness ever since, enabling you fully to recognize and comprehend the significance of what We now shall say.

By looking back carefully over the years of your spiritual journey with Us, and noting particularly the nature of the Teachings given you, you cannot but realize that We have not only been uncovering to your minds many vital and much needed spiritual truths, but We have been helping you prepare and discipline your minds so that they are becoming well-trained instruments capable of doing many things that were utterly impossible before coming into this Work.

You have become dimly aware that We are preparing you for something special and important; that We have gradually been lifting you higher and higher in consciousness; have been presenting to you possibilities of attainment, unfolding to you the potential use of high spiritual powers, that something deep within tells you but awaits your making these things actualities in your life. In the last few Papers especially you have glimpsed this, and it has made most of you long to become wholly fit and worthy that such powers may soon be quickened in you.

Let this impress itself strongly on your consciousness while We point out to you something else.

Why have We taken all these pains with you? Why have We been leading you to the Kingdom and helping you as much as possible when you found it to abide in it?

Again We remind you of Who We are. We are members of the Inner Brotherhood of Christ, One with your Higher Selves, and under Our Blessed Leader and Saviour Christ Jesus, We are gathering to His Service all of His disciples and workers on earth whose human instruments are able to hear and respond to Our call; aiding their Higher Selves to prepare and fit them for the work *that only they can do*—for they came purposely to do it—and which work awaits them in the near future. Think that over, for it means *you*, all of you who are a real part of this Work. Never doubt that.

Now can you see why from the beginning We have been so insistent upon your taking the time to meditate, to do the exercises given for the disciplining and training of your minds; to become acquainted with the Loving One within, so you could learn unerringly to know His Voice and to obey His Will for you; and to impress upon you the necessity of as quickly as possible *proving* and *using* these great truths we have been at such pains to unfold to you?

It is true that the slow progress of most of you would be very discouraging, were We to view it from the human standpoint and as you see it; but We are working with and for your Higher Selves, know all your human weaknesses and handicaps, and are therefore doing everything to help you overcome them, bringing to you just the trials and problems that will make you strive the harder and thus gain the spiritual understanding and strength their overcoming will develop; and ever inspiring you on to greater and more determined efforts, so that you may become the perfect instruments We intend you to be for Our use.

Try to realize that We are doing this from the soul plane of the Kingdom, where all is plainly seen and known, including the end of all for which We are striving; for the end, or the finished reality of what is intended, is already in existence there, and We are but working to bring the inner reality into manifestation in the outer through you Our mortal instruments, whom We created solely for that purpose.

Here We will remind you again that you as human instruments are nothing of yourselves; that you can do nothing, can have nothing, only as We do it through you or permit you to have it for Our use. For you, *in your Real Selves, living in the soul plane of the Kingdom, are WE, the Brotherhood of Christ; and you as human instruments are but Our outer reflections, being prepared by Us in advance to become perfect mediums for Our expression when bringing the Kingdom down upon earth among men, when all is ready for that glad event.* Think this over until you realize it all clearly, for much depends upon your acceptance of this great truth.

**N**OW WE will go back to the purpose of this Work. We have outlined to you much that has been accomplished, have hinted at what lies ahead, and now We intend to give you a definite glimpse of what awaits those who make the complete surrender of self to US, their Real Selves.

First, you are all seeking perfect health, perfect freedom from all limitations, physical, mental and financial, and perfect control of your human minds, bodies and

affairs. Why are you doing this? Simply because We are continually inspiring you to that end, pushing you on to accomplish it. That is why We let you get sick, physically, mentally and financially, as a result of your breaking the laws of life and love; so that you will learn what is not Our way for you, how to avoid all inharmonies of life, and how to gain and maintain perfect poise and perfect control of all the forces of your nature.

Gradually you are learning to listen only to Us, to wait continually on Our will for you, and to have no will or desires for yourselves. Soon, very soon, some of you will come into your own—will let go utterly, and We, your True Selves, will step forth and possess you, Our own, and be the Real You henceforth.

Can you vision what that means? Then listen and We will show you a few of the things We intend to accomplish with and through you. We ask you first, however, to go back to Paper No. 35, "The Kingdom," and to read *all of it carefully in the light of the greater understanding that has come to you the past year. Particularly in the article on "Consciousness," We wish you to note all that is stated in the quoted part, and then Our comments that follow; how as old souls you in your soul consciousness "know perfectly how to use these laws and are now trying to teach the right use of them to your brain minds."*

Some of you are learning to get back in your soul consciousness and to work from there. Just as fast as you are able to do this and make it possible, by surrendering completely to Us, your Christ Selves, so that there will be no tendency to use the knowledge and power to benefit self, are We, from within, teaching you, Our human expressions, the laws and giving you the power to bring the invisible realities of the Kingdom into visibility in the outer world; even as those children were taught to do it in the soul world. Consider that statement carefully, until you get its full meaning.

In other words, when We can get Our outer expressions completely cleansed and emptied of self, We propose to come forth and be their True Selves and to do Our Father's work on earth among men, even as Jesus, Our Elder Brother and Way Shower did two thousand years ago—doing all and even greater things that He did, as He promised we would do, because of the greater need now existing.

**T**HINK you that Our Father God, in permitting these terrible trials and tribulations to be visited upon His children, will allow them to go unsuccored and with no evidence of His loving care or that He is not a real and ever present and all powerful God?

Think you He knows not their need and will not provide for everyone of them who love and trust Him and keep their hearts turned to Him, even in the midst of their suffering and deprivations? They are His blessed ones, His tried and proven ones.

But even the ignorant, the deceived, despoiled and exploited ones, who because of having their faith utterly destroyed by the sophistries and lies of evil counsellors; even them the Father loves and will save and will lead back into the Light of His Love.

It is for this, dear ones, that We have been preparing you, to become the instruments through which our Beloved Father God will do this, will provide the needed help when the darkness becomes so great that all will turn to God as the only way of salvation. It is then that

through you, Our human expressions, We will come forth and walk among men, performing the same miracles that our Blessed Lord and His disciples did when They were on earth. Yes, We through you, will feed the multitude, clothe the naked, heal the sick, make the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to talk and the lame to walk; and all through the power of Christ, the Holy Spirit in Us. Nothing will be impossible for Us to do in Christ's Name for the Glory of God, to prove to His people that He is in truth a very loving God and an ever-present help in time of need.

For are you not disciples of Christ come here to do His bidding, even as you may have been His apostles of the past who carried His message to the nations of the earth, proclaiming the one true God and Jesus Christ, His Son. Through your and Our ministrations, hundreds of thousands, even millions, will soon be led back into the Light of Christ and into faith in God, and be enabled henceforth to walk therein.

That is what We are preparing you for, beloved. That has been the sole purpose of Our many efforts to get you to realize the presence and guidance of the Christ within, the Comforter, your True Self, a Son of the Living God. That is why We have been through these Teachings urging you on and on, impressing upon you the importance of proving and making use of their truths.

We know that We have given out in the Teachings far more than you can yet use, or even understand more than intellectually. But now that you are beginning to realize Who you are and of What you are a part, We are hoping—nay, We know—that you will go back, and slowly, one lesson at a time, will make these truths your own. Each one of you who get the inspiration and determination to do this will find real help and instruction given you from within; for We, your own Higher Selves, will give it to you and will do all possible to push you into a complete realization of Our Oneness, yielding to you as much of Our Knowledge and Power, as you yield up self to Us, for Our use in the Father's Service.

Therefore, begin now to review those lessons whose truths you feel need to be thoroughly digested and proven. Do this in the order of their issuance, for each leads to the next, and helps to prepare for the later truths given. Do it with an earnest prayer that you may be led and taught what you need to know, and your prayer will be surely heard; for We are but waiting for such to open the door of your consciousness so that We may pour into it the Light that will illumine it and bring complete understanding from and union with Our Consciousness.

In order to enable Us to do this, for a while then, instead of definite lessons, such as We have been giving in the past, We will continue these intimate talks, trying to help you more clearly to know yourselves, to use these powers We have unfolded in you, to realize what lies before you, and in that way to inspire you to greater efforts to prepare yourselves for the Master's use.

Above all things, cease being concerned about your spiritual progress or your soul status, but seek only to fit yourselves for the Father's Service. Can you not see that concern is only of the self, and that it hinders your progress and prevents your receiving the help We are waiting to give you? Because when your minds are thus fixed on self, they cannot be fixed on Us, and thereby be ready to receive Our guidance?

Do you not also see that your human selves are nothing, but that We, your Divine Selves, are ALL, and

will do all—if you only get the wrong beliefs, worries and concerns of your human minds out of the way?

Always remember, when such attempt to creep into your minds, the great truth of what you have been shown—Who you are and of What you are a part.

## A LETTER

THE enclosed letter is typical of many we have received in reply to the questions in the November Paper, and because it expresses what most of you feel and perhaps wanted to say, and our answer to it will therefore help you, we will try in what will follow this letter to make as plain as possible what everyone in this Work wants to know—how to let God lead and take full possession.

DEAR FRIENDS:

Pursuant to your request in the November Paper, I will state my position.

First of all, perhaps I have lost out by not writing to the Center more frequently, but the reason I have not was because I felt it was selfish to write too often, when you already had perhaps a very heavy correspondence to take care of; and then I also felt that any problems I would put up to you would be *personal* and that I should be able to work out the answers myself, without taking up the time of the Center for my personal benefit. I thought it was up to me to take the instructions given in the lessons and apply them to the working out of my difficulties, which have been numerous, for I felt they were all given me for a purpose.

With regard to the financial support of the Work of the Center, I have from the first sent my tithes to you and more, and I have sent it lovingly and prayerfully, wishing with all my heart it was many, many times more. But this financial problem has been the biggest one I have had to face, and instead of getting better, it seems to be getting harder all the time.

Since answering the question in the September Paper, I have had such a financial blow that I have been left practically penniless and do not know which way to turn to earn money . . . I have made a concentrated study of THE WAY OUT, and I feel I have succeeded in making its truths a part of my consciousness, so that I do not have the poverty consciousness; even though at the present time and for some time past I have no money to meet my necessary obligations.

With all this financial stringency and the suffering it has entailed, yet that has not been the important thing in my thoughts. In the words of Emilie Cady, "What I want is that the words I have learned as truths be made alive to me." I want the manifestation to me of the Father in me, so that I can know Him personally. I want to be conscious of "God working in me to will and to do," so that I can work out my own salvation.

Yes, certainly I have had enough of suffering and hardship. And why do I not yield to my soul now and let it lead? SIMPLY BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW HOW?

I suppose that this will seem like an almost impossible statement to make, after all the lessons and teachings that have been given over the last four years. I have truly and sincerely studied these lessons and tried to practice them in my every day living. I have been honest with myself and have faced my shortcomings squarely (when I become aware of them), and have succeeded in overcoming many of them.

I try always to be guided by my own Higher Self and do have many startling evidences of such guidance, but when I get "all balled-up," as I am now with financial affairs, I don't know what to do. Perhaps, if you could give me some definite work to do, it might be the means of helping me to find myself.

I have dedicated my life to this Work, and whether I ever get any more lessons from the Center or not, there is no turning back for me—I MUST GO ON to the best of my ability, for I have always been a member of the "Army of Servers." Ever since I can remember my innate desire and longing has been to be able to do something to benefit humanity.

It would seem that with this much understanding I should be able to get self out of the way and to let Spirit direct me perfectly, and I don't know what is the matter with me that I can't.

I pray God's blessing upon the Work and all its workers, both visible and invisible.

**T**HE ABOVE we will now answer in a general letter to all our dear ones who are assailed with similar doubts and problems.

No one has actually lost out by not writing to the Center more frequently, for all that is past was for a purpose and for the lessons gained. Our mentioning such closer contact was through the Center to draw you consciously closer hereafter to the Beloved Brotherhood in Spirit whom we represent and of which you are all a part. Of course it is intended that you write only when strongly urged from within, and then about the vital problems confronting you on which you can get no light. We are only too glad to help in every such instance.

The financial problem is getting to be a very serious one with many, and scarcely a letter does not mention it. But it is only one of the ways in which all are being tested and proven, to learn who are the Real Ones that nothing can shake or cause to weaken in their love for and trust in God, no matter what comes to pass.

So know that if the conditions seem to grow harder and harder, it is only because you are coming closer to the end of your trials; therefore the way to prove your trust in Him is to love and pray to God more and more earnestly, worshiping Him continually, looking to Him as the only source of your supply, and *expecting* your Good to pour forth any moment into your outer life. He must become *first* and SUPREME—your All in all.

You say you do not know *how* to surrender and let Him lead. The way we have just shown is the only way. By such love and trust, such prayer and expectancy, such KNOWING Him as He IS—the One and Only Self,—the pressure becomes so strong that the resistance of the little self *has* to give way; and it is only a question of days before you *compel* God to come forth and possess you as His own.

As we have shown you in the preceding articles, all of this testing is but part of the preparing process, whereby your Higher Self, a Son of God, is making you, His human expression, strong, poised and proven in your trust, so that He may present you a selfless and perfect instrument for the Father's use.

So you can see what is your part—to endure to the end in an absolute faith and confidence in the result, and as fast as possible becoming wholly unconcerned about what is happening in the outer.

As for additional lessons, all Real Ones will receive just the lessons they need, as our relations naturally will grow more and more intimate as you come closer into the spirit of the Work.

We intend to answer every one of the letters so kindly written in response to our request, but as in this Paper we have stated everything of importance relating to the Work and your part in It, our answers will be only to the personal matters in your letters. So be patient, as with the several hundred there are to answer, they can be attended to only in between the regular correspondence.

The work we are now going to ask you to do, while very important, is for all and regardless of how you have been graded; and the only way you will know in your human minds which grade you are in, if you do not know already, is by the Work you will later be called upon to do. Try therefore not to be concerned or curious as to your grade or that of your fellow disciples. In time you will know inwardly Who and Where you are and of What you are a part.

## IN HIS SERVICE

**I**N WHAT follows is the first definite work you are called upon to do for and as a part of the Brotherhood. Remember you are the outposts, Our agents, through whom We can accomplish the Father's Will.

This first work, therefore, is preliminary and preparatory, in that it will accustom you to definite and consecrated effort and will prepare your minds so that they will become pure, selfless, open channels through which We can do the Father's Work on earth even as planned in Heaven.

Upon the degree of your faithfulness in observing this request; your dedicating yourselves to Our—your Christ Selves'—use; your keeping self and its thoughts out entirely and being wholly one-pointed in this Service, will you be preparing yourself for greater and more individual Service.

**E**VERY day at 12 o'clock noon, no matter where you are or what you are doing, throw off all outer thoughts and interests and retire into the Silence of your Soul.

See yourself surrounded with and abiding in the Light of God's Love;

Feel It all around you as a powerful and all-encompassing Presence;

Feel It likewise pressing forth and then pouring forth from within you, illumining the consciousness of every cell of your body and every faculty of your mind, so that they all become pure, wide-open channels for the expression of that Love.

Then, realizing that you are now a perfect center of that Love, let Its Light and Power pour forth as from a great Beacon Light, shining and extending Its radiance to the far corners of the earth into the hearts and minds of everyone able to receive It.

See that Light of God's Love quickening, awakening, developing and expanding the Christ Light within all such, enabling them consciously to walk in and be taught by that Light.

Remain in this Consciousness from three to five minutes, all the time seeing and feeling the Light radiating from you in its Divine glory and effectiveness.

Sing glad praises to God that His Kingdom is now preparing to come forth into the outer lives of His children, and thank Him for enabling you to serve Him efficiently to that end.

That is all you need to do. We will do the rest. For We, the Higher Selves of all men on earth and of those in Spirit, forming the Great Army of Light working under Christ's direction, will pour all the mighty Power of God's illumining, healing and freeing Love through you our human channels to those We have prepared to receive It, and at the same time will help them to receive It.

In this manner will you be working consciously with Us, your Brothers in the Kingdom.

Let this impress itself strongly on your consciousness while We point out to you something else.

Why have We taken all these pains with you? Why have We been leading you to the Kingdom and helping you as much as possible when you found it to abide in it?

Again We remind you of Who We are. We are members of the Inner Brotherhood of Christ, One with your Higher Selves, and under Our Blessed Leader and Saviour Christ Jesus, We are gathering to His Service all of His disciples and workers on earth whose human instruments are able to hear and respond to Our call; aiding their Higher Selves to prepare and fit them for the work *that only they can do*—for they came purposely to do it—and which work awaits them in the near future. Think that over, for it means you, all of you who are a real part of this Work. Never doubt that.

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