

## **PRACTICE TO PRINCIPLE**

### **THE HIDDEN TREASURE IN THE LORDS PRAYER**

Each of us remembers a moment in our childhood when the time came to transition to a “big kid” bike. The promise of mobility and freedom was exciting and full of possibilities but to make that transition safely and appropriately, there was a period of time when training wheels were not only necessary, but wise. Our parents, those possessed of experiences and wisdom that we did not yet have, lovingly showed us the way to our own experiences of life through the use of tools and instruments such as training wheels.

The inner lives, the lives in Spirit that we have each taken up are not so different. As we walk through the Kingdoms of Consciousness, we do so attended by mentors and guides, those that have been to where we are going, those that show us the way. Just as Christ Jesus was to the disciples, those Christed souls we meet along our own paths, our spiritual “parents” for lack of a better term introduce us to instruments, tools and practices that are wise, necessary and that bridge the chasm between being lost in the darkness and blinded by the light. As we advance by our own exposure and experience of Truth, the practices and tools we are given serve us well, keeping us balanced and moving forward, just as the training wheels on our bicycle. One day, the “memory” bound up in our bodies is exposed and we are ready to ride without the training wheels. When that “memory” is fully revealed, we ride with skill and ease; a new level of freedom is announced through us into the world.

In the spiritual and mystical sense, this Ideal is what Christ Jesus brings forth in the Lord’s Prayer. In the greatest prayer ever spoken, the “training wheels” come off for those that have been prepared. What true parents wish for most, be they earthly or spiritual, is that those souls that have been placed into their charge exceed what they are in grace, wisdom and truth. “Greater things than these ye shall do” Jesus told the disciples, His spiritual children. The words of the Lord’s Prayer are both the declaration and the road map into this prophecy, a prophecy

we are all heir to. Up to the time the Master Prayer was given, the perception of spiritual attainment was one of hierarchy, ritual, regimentation and doctrine. From that point forward, the “training wheels” contained in those tools, practices and instruments could forever be put aside, revealing the Freedom that only Christhood can offer. As it is with training wheels on a bicycle, the highest purpose of any practice, any instrument or any tool is to work itself out a job, leaving us free to “stand at the door and knock” as we enter the realms of higher consciousness.

Formal practices have led us out of the darkness and into the Light in a myriad of ways during the course of our spiritual journeys. However, every structured practice has its basis in mental processes that are bound to the earth and our lower bodies in some way. When Christ Jesus declares “Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done in earth as it is in Heaven” He points the way for every Initiate and, by extension, all mankind to be lifted out of the structure and into True Order. In the realm of structured practices, descending Spirit must be “squeezed through” our own definition of It, what we think we need and what we have identified. As we look toward higher consciousness, the mental and earthly bonds dissolve so that real intuition and inspiration operate in us, a state of being that we can call Knowing. Instead of seeking Principle through practice, we become Principle individualized, just as Jesus did.

It is said that “time heals all wounds.” In Truth, time heals nothing because time itself is a mental construct. Time provides an arena where the resistance to Truth bound up in our lower bodies can be surrendered. The same paradigm applies to our formal practices. These practices have no Substance in and of themselves; they are not Holy. Like time, they provide a venue where the Truth placed into us from the very beginning can be remembered and by remembrance, revealed. This is important to realize lest, out of the sometimes murky aspects of our human personalities, we find ourselves worshiping the practices instead of the Principle they assist us in recalling. In the final act of the Master Prayer, Truth is declared in the statement “for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever.” This magnificent reminder is the crystal-clear announcement, both the Alpha and the Omega, of our Divine Birthright, that which is worthy of our

attention and worship. All else are stepping stones, instruments and “training wheels”.

Practices walk us through the kingdoms of ideas so that we can return Home, living in the Kingdom of Ideal. This is something that the disciples came to know by intuition under the “parenthood” of Christ Jesus. In their time, religion was highly structured, as were the forms of prayer, rituals and doctrine attending it. At the doorway of higher consciousness, the threshold of becoming Apostles, one of them spoke for all by asking “Master, how should we pray?” It was here, knowing that the ground had been prepared, that Jesus gave them the mightiest prayer of all, the prayer of the Ideal.

As each of us moves more fully from Kingdom II into Kingdom III, we are prepared in the very same way and see the Master Prayer for what it is; a mystical declaration of Being. As we integrate the realms of ideas into Changeless Ideal, maturing inspiration and intuition expose our native “I”ness. When embraced mystically, this is what the Lord’s Prayer accomplishes.

Within the realm of practices, we are allowed the subtle illusion that the changes, demonstrations and healings we experience are, in some degree, by our own hand. It is here that we speak our word. We bring our own ideas, our errors and the history of our free will to the altar of practices and often call it “the work.” When we look into the Lord’s Prayer with the authority and Knowing that Christ Jesus spoke it, the mist of our own suppositions and estimations lifts and we see with confidence and clarity that it is always “the Father that doeth the work.” It is here that our word yields to THE Word. “Give us this day, our daily bread” announces that it is the “Father that knows what things we have need of before we even ask.” These words, as well as the Prayer as a whole, contain not a single petition, qualification or identification but are a statement of what God is and how that Presence operates. It is the nature of that Father Presence to give endlessly and freely into Its Creation.

Declaring the “hallowed by Thy Name” as Jesus did frees us to the only responsibility we have as beings in higher consciousness, the surrender and receptivity of Truth as well as the transmission thereof. Like the disciples, the

path we have walked up to now has made this complete surrender and receptivity possible. Even foundational issues such as forgiveness, evil and temptation, the subjects of many practices and prayers, are lifted out of our lower bodies and dissolved by a Power, Presence and Wisdom beyond naming and beyond imagination; “Our Father, which art in Heaven”.

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors” is not a request but a statement of Original Mind activity when surrender and receptivity are complete and the Holy Spirit has resurrected the lower bodies. In this state, being led into temptation or even recognizing the shadow that we call evil is no longer possible since, in Truth, they never existed. Where, in the realm of practices, we once declared “Let me see!” we are elevated to the realm of Knowing where we simply say “Let it be.”

The ability to take off the “training wheels” and enter through the portal of consciousness opened by the Master in the Lord’s Prayer truly fulfills the promise of “on earth as it is in Heaven.” As we step through, our minds integrate back into THE Mind more seamlessly than ever before. We find that while practices are essential, it is just as essential to see them for what they are, the bringers of angels (perfect ideas) into our awareness until every idea surrenders to Divine Ideal where we KNOW that it is the Father’s good pleasure to “give us this day, our daily bread” not by choice or by chance, but because that is Its nature.

In the elegance of Immortal Mind Presence, nothing containing the germ of Truth is ever lost, but integrated. While the practices that brought us Home do not disappear, our relationship to and with them is transformed. What once fed us we now offer to others as “daily bread.” The genius of this paradigm is that, through ministry, mentorship and teaching, we are able to bring others through the realms of ideas by the higher consciousness of Ideal that we have entered into. We welcome others to see the Light while we look toward the Source of the Light; First Cause. It is our own ascended Christhood, humble and free, that can and does bring others with the “ears to hear and the eyes to see” to that exalted moment when they too may ask “Master, how should we pray?”