

Ask, Seek, Knock! And the Door of Truth Flies Open

T275 The Inner Teachings 15th October 1963 St Mary Abbots Place, London

Invocation:

O Gracious Spirit, all-enfolding Love: Thy children, in humility and thankfulness, aspire to Thee, praying that they may be conscious of Thy gentle influence and Thy Light. May they feel Thy presence now, and may they see the signpost pointing the Way of Life to them. In Thy holy name we call upon the angels of the Christ spheres. And may any soul in need, now in this meeting, receive Thy blessing, according to Thy love, Thy will. We thank Thee, we thank Thee, O Lord.

Amen.

Brethren of the earth life, we come bringing our love to you because we see that this is what you need more than anything else in life. This you may not realise, but in due time you will find fuller understanding of the power of love.

During our talk we want you to put from your minds the distracting thoughts of daily life. Having come from an outer world which is noisy and full of turmoil, it will not be easy to do this, and in any case we would explain that the material, the outer, physical life is of great importance. We say this because many people are inclined to disregard the demands of every day in their search for truth and for God. This is a mistake, because you have had a life on the earth presented to you as a most valuable gift. All the same, you are a spiritual being, and as spirit you have powers to unfold. This is the most important thing to remember, and also you must not confuse spiritual power with psychic power or force; the latter is only one part of a great whole. The psychic plane is that of the soul, the psyche, and you can receive soul-impressions when you have trained yourself to be receptive. See that they are true and beautiful impressions. Nevertheless, the physical life is still important because your spirit, son or daughter of God, while clothed in physical matter, sometimes has to grapple with very difficult conditions which strengthen the power of the spirit in matter. These conditions you yourself have prepared during your past incarnations; and today, during your present life, you are likewise preparing for your next incarnation. The state of life in which you find yourself today is planned by perfect law to ensure your continuing development and growth.

This idea may not seem very acceptable to you, but we want you to understand the importance both of your daily life and your present reactions to all the conditions of that daily life. If they seem unpleasant, try and find out why, and you will perhaps realise that something in you needs discipline and correction. Therefore you are placed in the very conditions that your spirit and your soul most needs, to, shall we say, rub off the rough corners? The old mystery schools said that every person was like a rough stone ashlar, and life's purpose was to rub off all the rough places and make the rough ashlar into a smooth stone or cube, ready to be used in the building of a great temple. Your daily life, therefore, is preparing you to take your place in that building. You may think, if you like, of your every incarnation as preparing yet another stone for that purpose.

Now, we want to answer a threefold question which has come to us via the earth people. We have been asked to deal with a text which you will find in Luke's gospel (ch. 11, v. 9). It runs: 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened

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unto you.' You are familiar with those words, without perhaps thinking a great deal about them, and it may be that they can help you in your daily life, your development and your preparation to enter the Great White Lodge. Some people interpret the words: 'Ask and it shall be given to you,' in a largely material way, and they ask God for many things for themselves. Now you know that prayer is most important. When you kneel to pray, whether you kneel physically or in spirit, you are performing a powerful ritual. In the first place, to kneel upon the ground affects the centres at the knees; the magnetism is stimulated and flows up through the body and helps in the opening of the crown chakra. Secondly, to kneel is an act of humility, of supplication, surrender to the First Great Cause of life.

So man* kneels and he prays, preparing himself both spiritually and physically to receive the blessing which can come when he has learnt to surrender all to God. When you pray, 'Not my will but Thy will, O Lord,' you ask truly. Do you see the difference between this and demanding of God: 'I want this'? 'Do this, that or the other for me, O God!' 'I want you to soften this or that person's heart.' In praying thus the individual is self-seeking: 'I want ... I want ... give me ... give me....' Yes indeed; many people still think quite simply that this is the full meaning of 'Ask and it shall be given you.' 'Ask,' they say, 'for anything, and God will give it to you.'

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

We, however, know that when you earnestly pray, you are setting in motion certain forces which can indeed direct things towards you. So a man has to learn to be very careful how he prays. Yes, 'Ask and it shall be given to you,' but first put yourself into the true attitude. 'Not my will, O Lord, but Thy will, Thy law, be done.' When the soul can truly ask, not merely for itself but that the will of God may be done on earth, it prays not for itself but for the blessing and the good of all mankind.

That is the true asking, which makes a direct, strong, clear contact with the Source of All Good. Those who are accustomed to meditate will know that at a certain point you can touch this Source, touch this Centre. One of the most ancient symbols known on this earth plane is the symbol of the dot-within-the-circle, the symbol of the Sun (or the Son, the Christ, the child, the Son of God). When you truly pray, you touch that eternal centre, the dot-within-the-circle, which is most powerful, and has an effect both upon yourself and those around you. It means that you have asked for divine love, and it has been given, because you have asked in the right way.

There is an outer life of the world, and the soul or the psyche to consider; and there is an inner life of the spirit. When you are asking on the inner planes, you will receive in full measure, and all your needs will be supplied, maybe not in the exact way you want or think they should be supplied, but then you have to train yourself to seek 'Thy will'; to say, 'Thou knowest best, O Lord.' Have faith and trust that God will answer in the truest and finest way. Ask in the right spirit and the blessing will surely come. You have no need to doubt for one instant, because you are prepared to accept, accept, according to divine love. Life has only one object, that man shall grow in stature to become a son of God. This applies to every

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living soul. God does not differentiate between people. Never forget this. The divine spirit comes into incarnation – no matter whether the skin be black, brown, red, yellow or white – for the one purpose, and that is for the soul to learn by degrees the great lesson of spiritual brotherhood and peace within. Of course we recognise and understand that this calls for much effort, but in this new age the brotherhood of the spirit must be recognised. All must and will learn to work together for the good of the whole. In this way mankind is reaching upward to that state of mind and spirit where it knows at-one-ment with Infinite Love, with the Cosmic Christ.

So we proceed to the next injunction [in the biblical quotation]: ‘Seek and ye shall find’. There are some dear people who are always seeking but still do not know what they want—let us put it that way so as not to hurt anyone. They will tell you, ‘Oh, but I have searched here, there and everywhere, and nothing seems to be what I want. I sip, I taste, and then it turns bitter.’ Now what man really is seeking is God; that is the longing in every man’s heart although he does not know it, and he seeks in peculiar ways; man seeks through his body, his appetites, his emotions; he is seeking happiness, and he chooses some very peculiar ways to find it. Others are seeking on the spiritual path, even seeking their Master; others again are seeking knowledge, or else signs and wonders. In many ways man seeks satisfaction. May we try to tell you what we think you all want? You are seeking truth. How then can you find it? Where can you find it? Sometimes people say, ‘I sought and sought and sought, and the heavens seemed as brass. I found nothing.’

Nothing? God cometh in very simple ways; He comes in little things which the seeker often overlooks. If you are seeking truth and you cannot find it in any book or lecture, or in any conversation with your fellows, it is because you are seeking the letter and not the spirit. If your heart holds a sincere and earnest desire to find truth and to find the inner secrets of life, we would advise you to think deeply about everyday simple happenings of life. Within your own life and within your own heart you should be seeking, and in your daily life, in your communion with your fellow creatures, in your observation of nature you will find what you are seeking—yes, truly, in simple ways. You may find yourself walking along a certain road, or standing before a certain door; you may get the impression you are being drawn within that door, and in that contact you find what you are seeking. You may also find (and without any seeming reason) that a certain book will be lent to you, or you will see it in a shop window, or else hear about it. Take due notice of those signposts. Something is waiting for you to find if you seek it in the right way. So, be alert, but not so much for the things of the body but of the spirit or of God. Be alert to feel the touch of the angel at your side; listen to the voice of the master, which you will hear over the heads of the crowd. Keep above the disturbances of the material world, and you may hear what some people call ‘the still small voice’ or ‘the voice of the conscience’. We prefer to call it ‘the voice of the master’ or ‘the voice of the silence’. If you will listen and allow yourself to be guided—we do not mean by any foolish voice; any voice which tells you to do anything or go anywhere foolish is not the true voice to follow. The voice to follow, the voice of your master, is that of divine love and wisdom.

You must learn discernment here; you must learn common sense and not be influenced by any impression which is obviously foolish, or respond to irresponsible psychic forces which

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can play upon you. The voice of your master will tell you to do things which are right and good, kind and loving, and soundly sensible. Make no mistake about that. Any impression which your inner light tells you is wrong—and you must know the difference between right and wrong—any voice which speaks otherwise—disregard it.

People so much want to know about the secrets or mysteries of the higher life and think they will find the answers through reading books or learning certain magical processes. But you cannot force the gates of heaven, nor gate-crash into the holy mysteries. Indeed yes, you are told by the Master to knock and the door shall be opened unto you. What does this mean? To knock is to take action; you knock because you are seeking admittance. This means that man has to learn to act on the square, to act rightly. First of all he has to pray rightly, or practice in everyday life good action, right action, inspired by right thought. In other words, you have to be true, to act from the centre, from the dot-within-the-circle, from the Christ within. Only when you train yourself to act thus do you knock on the door of the temple, do you seek initiation into the holy mysteries. Before you can be admitted you must know the password. Many of you here already know this password without our telling. It is one which must be put into daily action. Of course, it is the simple word 'love'! You see, you have to so act, so live your daily life that you are naturally at all times a being of love. Love, not sentimentality; love means seeing good, seeing God, recognising the divine law of cause and effect working throughout all life; it means being tolerant towards all men, towards all the happenings of daily life; in other words, it means patience, thoughtfulness of others. All these qualities add up to love. Wisdom is, of course, a part of love. Therefore in action you must be wise. Seeking wisdom from the Most High, from the Christ Spirit, wisdom will come with love; love will come with wisdom, the two virtues being inseparable.

You see, your actions, your whole life makes a vibration or a sound. Every individual soul is therefore sounding a note, a vibration. When the harmonious and right vibration goes forth from you, it finds its exact mark, and so it will return. As you sound, so you will receive—this is cause and effect. This happens on all planes. Spiritually, when you send out that note of Christ love, you naturally absorb into yourself harmony, peace of mind, all things which create in your environment harmony and progress. It is an exact law. On the physical plane as you sound that right note, you will find disease will disappear; you will become healthy.

How does the old saying go? 'Healthy, wealthy, and wise.' Well, if you put spiritual law into motion truly and exactly, it will come back to you a hundredfold, in your surroundings, in your family, in your work, in everything. All things work together for good for the man who loves good, or God. So having knocked by your actions, your life, and sounded the password of love, you are admitted into the beautiful white temple. In other words, you yourself are forming the perfect cube in daily life, which you build into the temple.

In conclusion, we say that not one of you can have any conception at present of the beauty which lies before you. All we can say is: Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find—exactly what you are seeking in truth; and knock—live right action and right thought, and you will be admitted into the temple of the holy mysteries, where the glories of the

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heaven world await you, and there you will find that complete at-one-ment with the Divine Spirit, God, your Creator. Then, even beyond, there is still advancement, for God is not static. God is taking you along with Him. Remember God can never be static when all life is ever demonstrating, is illustrating growth, movement and progress. Can you ever come to an end? No, indeed! Nor is there any such thing as a straight line; it must curve and join at the end and make a circle. So therefore your life goes on and on never wearying, never disappointing, but ever unfolding and progressing, because God takes you onward with Him and is ever growing, expanding and reaching higher to a more glorious life.

Keep this in mind and discard all thoughts of death. Have no fear. God is all love, and you being part of God, He enfolds and nurtures you in His heart. We speak truth from the heart of truth. Look for God everywhere and especially in your fellow men, where He may be difficult to see, but if you make the right effort, you will kindle light and love in your fellow and learn to recognise it more readily. So go on your way with thankful hearts and rejoice and thank God that you are living on earth, and even thank God for your problems and difficulties. If you face them in the right spirit they will pay handsome dividends to you, spiritually.

Benediction:

Now let us all go together in spirit to the Great White Lodge and see the Lord revealed in all His beauty, purity, simplicity and age-old wisdom. Humbly we stand, and from our hearts give thanks, praying to be washed, cleansed from all errors of our physical being. O Gracious Spirit, may these Thy children feel the refreshment of Thy pure spirit.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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Occult, discrimination, tolerance