

# The Practice of the Presence of God

A230 Sunday Address 2nd September 1951 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

*Text:* like all of the 1951 addresses so far, this is from a carbon typescript, apparently by MB but marked 'Draft' and corrected by AMI. It does not seem to have been printed in *Angelus* or *Stella Polaris*, and the title. 'The Practice of the Presence of God' has been given it for the current project. *Context:* the September service was the reopening service after the August break. The reading, according to the typescript, was the 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Aquarian Gospel – which has dominated readings in 1951 so far. The 58<sup>th</sup> chapter describes a meeting of the Sages in the heaven world, planning human destiny. WE learn from the first paragraph that the hymn sung before White Eagle's address was 'Breathe on me, breath of God', a very frequently sung hymn at this point in the service. *General Notes:* White Eagle introduces an exercise for realisation of the presence and power of God. In saying that one of the tools or soul-qualities which bring self-realisation is purity, it is unlikely he means moral purity of the Victorian kind so much as a spiritual one-pointedness. As White Eagle describes it, is a concentration on God, not on what he has already, in this address, called 'the carnal mind', that is, 'the earthly mind'. The whole address develops the theme of realising God, and ends with an intriguing image about the total commitment required, 'You cannot swim with one toe on the bottom of the sea'. The very last section is about how awareness of God actually makes us more practical, and continues the image with 'if you do this you will find a buoyancy in your physical body'.

*References:* the hymn 'Breathe on me, breath of God' is by Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). There is a reference to a pronouncement of the Sages, which probably relates to the reading from the Aquarian Gospel: the key words might be 'Man is not far enough advanced to live by faith' (58 : 6). The commandment to 'Love one another' is to be found at John 13 : 34, while 'I and my Father are one' is John 10 : 30. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God' is Matthew 6 : 33. The parable of the Good Samaritan is Luke 10 : 25-37. The one who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage (lentil stew) was Esau, in Genesis 25 : 29-34. The apparent quotation about life being once more 'one grand sweet song' is possibly a misquotation of the title of the popular Victorian parlour song, 'Love's Old Sweet Song' (words by James Lynam Molloy).

## White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren of the earth, when you sing that hymn which you have just sung, 'Breathe on me, Breath of God', you are calling upon the Breath of God which is the Holy Son, Christ. For Christ is the breath and the life eternal in all men. So, whenever you sing that hymn, if you will remember our words, breathing into your soul the Christ spirit, you are breathing in the holy breath – and if you breathe in this holy breath you must, of necessity, breathe it out; a blessing upon life, all life, all creation.

When you come to a service like this you come with the object of worshipping God, holding communion with Universal Spirit; and for this you must lay aside all material thoughts. In the majority of people the lower mental body is unruly. It is so active that no spiritual realisation can penetrate it. And the way to God is by faith, and faith is an inner knowing. Now there comes a time in the evolution of the soul of man when it has faith, it has this inner knowing that God *is* all being, all enfolding love. The sages said that man in his lower aspect of evolution could not find faith sufficient to bring him the realisation of God. But those of you who are present in this service have come by faith because you have an inner knowing, an intuition that God *is*. You have not yet fully realised the power of God, but you are hoping to

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unfold your spiritual qualities so that in due time you will, through self-realisation, comprehend the glory of God.

Now first of all you must have faith, and faith is an inner knowing. Therefore you must lay aside the carnal mind, or the earthly mind, and all material thought. You must seek the presence of God by thought. God *is* thought and if you would be drawn into the presence of God you must think of God and remember that good thought is God. Therefore in everyday life on your earth plane, by continually thinking good towards life, towards your fellow travellers on life's journey, towards all things which compose your life, you are attuning yourself to the central point, God. By daily practice of good thought, simple pure good thought, you are treading the path which will most certainly lead you to realisation of the glory of God, the power of God, the love of God.

At this moment let us practise this lesson. Close your eyes, forget all earthly things, centre your heart simply upon the beauty and the glory of an Infinite Being in the heavens. Think of this Being as one, a personality if you like, but a personality which appears very tiny in the centre of a vast golden sun. Now as the soul approaches the heaven world it sees a golden light. If with your eyes closed you are conscious of an enveloping golden light you can know that you are approaching the throne of God. You are approaching that place of self-realisation, which will bring to you the power of God, the wisdom of God and the love of God.

The quality in the soul which brings it to the realisation of the spirit life, or God-life, is purity. Therefore, good thought in daily life is pure thought, and pure thought begets pure speech and action. The soul who has attained a degree of pure thought has attained a degree of God-consciousness. It is as simple as that, and the Master Jesus Christ simply said to His disciples and to all who would listen to Him, 'Love one another'. God is love. If you would understand the meaning of His words; 'The Father and I are one', proceed along the pathway of human life thinking of God, not of carnal things. Material things have their place in life. They are important in so far as they are used as lessons to the soul, but if the lessons are not absorbed through physical experience then the individual is making no, or little, progress towards reunion with the divine life.

Let us go back for a moment to our mental picture of the radiance of God, the golden essence. And in that essence we see in our mind, we create an image of countless beings; some are angels, lesser angels, humans. We see in that company the faces of saints. We know that we are gazing into a heavenly assembly, and we feel in our hearts the holiness of the heaven world. We realise to a very limited degree the God-presence, God-realisation. And we breathe in the breath of the golden essence, the food which floweth from the heart of God, Father–Mother, Force, Intelligence, and from this we beget within our heart the child of God, the Christ babe, the Christ consciousness. This is the meaning of Christ being the saviour of humanity.

To comprehend the truth of the Christ teaching you must leave the earthly mind and enter the innermost sanctuary of your soul. There you will find eternal truth. There you will find the power of truth which will free you from all limitations of the earth, of earthly bondage. Now

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what you will touch within your soul as you proceed in this spiritual unfoldment is a quality of consciousness which you do not yet realise you possess: a quality of consciousness which will raise you above all earthly entanglements.

What do we mean by this? Are we suggesting that you lay aside all earthly responsibility and live your life meditating upon the spirit and the heavenly hosts? Oh dear no, but we do mean first and foremost you must seek this contact. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you.' All man's needs will be supplied through the Christ within him, through divine love.

Man has, in this coming New Age, to tap the source of spiritual life, and when he has done this he will be freed from earthly entanglements, from the confusion of earth. His values will change. He will understand that freedom and power do not lie in material possessions but in the using of the Christ power within his soul. And every need of man is supplied by this supreme love, wisdom and divine intelligence – God. At the present time man has his values topsy-turvy and he seems to think that all his needs will be supplied through material power and wealth – but, when it comes to the laying down of these material things, man is only rich in so far as he has developed this faith, this consciousness of God's love and God's power.

Material wealth brings to man sometimes, not always, but sometimes, beauty. The man who has wealth can surround himself with beauty, chiefly of a material nature. The man who has no material wealth is not denied the power to surround himself with beauty, but of a different kind. What is beauty? It is harmony, and harmony comes from within the soul and is expressed externally. And so a very poor man according to earthly standards can still surround himself with beauty, can still be beautiful and can be healthy, which means holy, simply because he is in tune with the Source of all being. He is in tune with God and God is all harmony. And when man learns to let go his attachment to *things*, he finds freedom in God's world; not only freedom in the spirit realms, but freedom on earth.

You are all enslaved, my children. You do not know it, but you are enslaved by your minds. You think the wrong way and so you are in chains. You are in bondage to material thought, thought of the material world. But remember this, that you are all learning the lesson of faith. You are all here on the earth plane to learn this lesson of faith, faith in a God that, at present, you cannot see, you cannot realise – but you have got to learn to have faith. You have to acquire that inner knowledge of this glory which is all around you in the invisible because it is to this life that you are wending your way. Your happiness in the next world will depend upon the quality of your consciousness in *this* world.

Now that is a very deep question, a very deep subject, and it will provoke a great deal of thought. The more you think about it, the more surely will you recognise its truth.

Some time ago a question was put to us; 'Oh why do you come back from that beautiful world of spirit to this dark earth?' It seemed to us a very pathetic question, for the questioner had no conception of God's love or she would not have asked that question. For when we touch the plane of beauty, harmony and love, we instantly think of those dear ones who are learning their lessons on the earth plane, those who are like children at school. We cannot

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enjoy a selfish heaven. We must help our brethren on earth towards the freedom of spiritual consciousness. This is why we come back. This is why all workers for the light, all servers of humanity, return to earth, either in the form we are now using or else through incarnation: because we all have love for each other, we cannot leave a brother in need.

Now this truth you will find repeated by Jesus in His parable of the Good Samaritan. There were some who passed by on the other side of the road when they saw that earthly thieves had robbed the brother, but the Good Samaritan could not pass a brother in need and he went to his service. Now these lessons, parables and miracles of Jesus are all to convey to the seeker after truth deep spiritual law. Do not read these parables as pretty stories nor interpret them just on the surface of life. They have many interpretations and the farther you advance along the road of spiritual unfoldment, the more interpretations you will find for the miracles and parables of Jesus.

Now brethren, finally let us speak of the purpose of the miracles of Jesus. No master ever displays power to satisfy the curiosity of idlers. Jesus demonstrated, to those who were ready, the power of the Christ spirit. Now what happened two thousand years ago can happen today, has happened within recent years, and we say is happening now. Let no soul in this assembly have any doubt about that. The power of God, the power of the Christ spirit, is the same today, yesterday and for ever. It is just a question of the individual soul comprehending the spiritual law which governs all life, which governs physical life, material life and spiritual life. It is the one supreme law.

Now those of you who are seeking in body or in soul (the two go hand in hand), seek by faith to realise within your innermost being this power, the Christ power. Let it rise in you and control every atom, every physical atom of your body. Let it work through you and take possession of your life. You can surrender your life and your affairs calmly, confidently to the wisdom and love of God. You cannot swim with one toe on the bottom of the sea. You must go in full confidence into the water and then you feel the freedom, the joy of swimming. It is the same with spiritual truth. People like to have a little security on earth. They cling to earthly things and earthly power. You must relinquish thoughts of earth. Surrender completely to that divine love, only God's love. Trust, have confidence in God's love and then you will know that the power of that love has worked in you a miracle and, if it does not work immediately, do not be a coward and throw it over saying it does not work. The white magic of Christ *always* works if man has confidence in it and gives himself up entirely to it.

Now a last word, beloved children. We told you to attune yourselves daily, continually, to the heart of God, to be filled with the power of God's love. If you do this, you will find a buoyancy in your physical body. You will find that you are able to do all that is required of you on earth. You will find that instead of being dreamy and incapable of dealing with every detail of the material life, you will be quickened in sense and in aptitude. You will be so much more efficient in a quiet and humble way. Things will come much more easily to you. You will be carried along by the glory of Christ working in you, working through you, and life will indeed be 'One grand sweet song'. It will no longer be drudgery and a terror. It will be beautiful, harmonious – for you will no longer be entangled, imprisoned by the limitations

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of the physical and earthly mind and physical body. You will have overcome the earth. You will have overcome death. You will have attained mastery.

This is the whole purpose of your incarnation, for the soul, as you have heard us say before, left the heart of God to seek experience and to develop the powers of God with which it is endowed. And the only way for that seed of God life to grow is for the soul to descend, taking upon itself the clothing of lower ethers close to the earth, coming into incarnation as a babe, unconscious of itself, unconscious of anything and gradually growing, developing self-consciousness until it eventually attains God-consciousness with the knowledge of how to use the God qualities within its own being.

*God, Father–Mother, we Thy children just glimpse the glory of our birthright. We pray that we may use this gift according to Thy Will. We pray that we may not sell our birthright for a mess of pottage, for the carnal way of life, but may we strive to glorify Thee in our lives both here on earth and hereafter. And so Thy blessing, O God, we receive humbly, gratefully.*

*O God, we thank Thee.*

*Amen.*

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*power of thought, positive thought, intuition, spiritual contact, light within, inner voice, materialism, mindfulness, path of the soul, teachings of Jesus*