



EDGAR CAYCE'S

BIBLE STUDY MINUTES

Paralleling

SEARCH FOR GOD I

STUDY GROUP LESSONS

January 4, 1939

to

January 2, 1940

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Edgar Cayce's Bible Study Paralleling Search For God I Study Group Lessons

Minutes

From January 4, 1939 to January 2, 1940
of the
Virginia Beach Study Group #1 of the
Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc.

Minutes for the Virginia Beach Study Group # 1* of the Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc., which met **January 4, 1939** at 8:00 P.M., at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Edgar Cayce, on Arctic Circle, Virginia Beach, Va.

Present: Mr. And Mrs. Cayce, Mr. Allen, Gladys Davis, Mae Verhoeven.

Officers elected: Gladys Davis, Chairman; Mae Verhoeven, Secretary and Treasurer; and **Mr. Edgar Cayce, Teacher.**

Lesson Affirmation led by Mr. Allen. After a few minutes meditation, Affirmation repeated in unison by the group.

Offering 49 cents: To be used according to the vote of the group.

Mr. Cayce explains the purpose of the forming of this group and similar groups as follows: *We are gathered for the purpose of comparing the Study Group Lessons with the Scripture from the King James Bible, to make the truths practical for ourselves and those who seek to apply them*

* Gladys Davis' Note:

A.R.E Virginia Beach Study Group #8 (actually Virginia Beach Study Group #1) was organized and had its first meeting on July 26, 1934, with Mrs. Edgar Cayce (Gertrude) leading the discussion.

Minutes of January 4, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Cooperation”
and the
1st Chapter of Genesis**

The Story of Creation, as taught by Mr. Edgar Cayce.

After the creating of souls, God began what we call Evolution, by thought. Then when Spirit had pushed itself into matter, we had thought forms. This first Chapter is a description of **Man's** concept of God's plan to save these souls. That is what is meant by 'He hath prepared a way of escape.'

1st Verse. God brings into being His first begotten son, the first one to whom He gives a physical body and gives him dominion over the earth, a privilege denied the thought forms. Thus that Evil One, that spirit which had rebelled against God in spirit, could only become active through God's physical man **AS** that physical man allowed him to become active. Thus we find man constantly beset by the necessity of making a choice between good and evil. To make the proper choice, there must be cooperation with God.

2nd. Water is the Mother of Creation. This is the beginning of evolution. We have a daily Genesis. Each morning is a Beginning, for as we awake from sleep, everything is without form and void.

3rd. Few take note, that each time God called something into being, God saw the light "and it was good." When we arise from darkness and recognize the light, to us it is good. We must have faith but faith must be a part of our experience before we know we have faith. So unless, we as individuals can experience that what is written in the Bible is ourselves, we cannot say we believe what it says.

4th - 10th. Our first consciousness, that we came from something into something else. Our awareness, our awakening.

11th. The great mystery to Man. Man has made anything and everything, but he cannot make it reproduce itself, “only God can make a tree.”

14th. The sun, moon and stars were first for signs. The ancients gained their knowledge from the heavens. They gave the position and names to practically all of the stars and their combinations without our modern means of viewing them. The stars were signs to be used for planting, etc. and not ruling factors governing man's actions. Some say the first book of the Bible is only a story. It can be so. But is it not something we can experience very day?

18th. The other creations were already in their places when man came. There were beings that had pushed themselves into matter. Then it became God's purpose to prepare the way to save them. The bringing of the first Son of God, Adam, is described here according to man's concept of how it is to be done. Then Adam becomes Jesus, as we will see in our New Testament parallel for this lesson.

St. John 1: 1- 5. The word was with God. **THAT** is Jesus. He **WAS** and **IS** the light of men. Man was in the mind of God before he was brought into physical being and he was then created in God's own image - being the Mind of God represented in man through Jesus Christ-----the way.

Genesis 1: 27. The description given is: That God created man and woman first as one, in **SPIRIT**. Then male and female in flesh. As the mind became aware of its duality in matter, there was the necessity for the positive and negative force to be separate yet Cooperative.

29th. That's why many groups today will not eat meat.

30th. No matter how small a thing is something lives upon it.

31st. This is the first time God says, that it is very good.

“Cooperation”

Upon this lesson of Cooperation is the foundation of all we have in regard to soul development. John gives a description, in the first five verses of St. John, of all we have in the first three chapter of Genesis.

1st Paragraph. In creation everything that follows is dependent upon that just before. God was giving Himself to bring into being the perfect way for the soul to find its relationship to the creative Influence or God, or come to that realization of what we call the Christ-Consciousness, - which is that consciousness of being one with Him-----as described in the beginning of the world. That is the Spiritual interpretation of **COOPERATION**.

2nd Paragraph. Man's fall. Rather than using what he has been given constructively, he applies it for selfish motives, thus bringing in-harmony and then fear. Cooperation is shown all through creation. God made everything to cooperate. Even as the herb is for the beast, even as the organs in the physical body. In our physical body, as man is the last of creation, we are made up of everything that was created before, so we are dependent upon all that has gone before. Then, unless our bodies are in harmony, we will be sick.

3rd Paragraph. Here we find a fuller explanation of why we are admonished to love one another.

4th Paragraph. Our knowledge of what we are to do is according to how we have applied the awareness that has come to us through prayer and meditation, in our attempts to lose ourselves in the Christ-Consciousness, by our every thought being in harmony with the intent and purpose for which we have set our goal.

There comes to us the old question, "If God loves us, why does he allow us to suffer so?" We forget that though Jesus was the Son of God, **HE** learned obedience through the things **HE** suffered.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of January 12, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Cooperation”
and the
2nd Chapter of Genesis**

In this Chapter we are shown God's attempt to get the Cooperation of man in fulfilling the purpose for which man was created. God's desire was that man be a godly, a goodly man, as was everything in his creation. Perhaps each verse represents ages rather than days, for the description of the growth of plants, etc., is given before there was man to till the soil.

7th Verse. We have the first real promise to man. The promise that the lord of God's creation became a living Soul.

9th. The record of the Tree of Life and The Tree of Knowledge (good and evil), between which man was given the privilege of choosing. The Tree of Knowledge, as we interpret it, is Man's ability to gratify his own self-indulgence, which becomes his own undoing.

11th. By mentioning the land of much gold the writer is attempting to describe the location according to that known by the people of that age. We understand that it was Ezra who copied this portion of the books of the law and was thus attempting to show his people what was theirs in the beginning; just as in his description of Ethiopia, the land of the children of Ham, the black people.

14th. Hiddekel was the river by which Daniel later stood during the days of his captivity. These locations are very far apart. This indicates that the garden of Eden covered a large area, or possibly the exact location was not known and, as we understand from profane history, has been credited to every land. Here the interpreter is giving boundaries according to the greatest area the mind could encompass at that time.

15th. Here we are given evidence of God's method of seeking men's Cooperation, evidence of God's willingness to work hand in hand with man. As we study this we can understand more completely what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the vine and ye are the branches."

16th. **KNOW**, Cooperation **IS** obeying the command of God.

17th - 25th. These verses give a picture of god's perfect creation through Cooperation, - God's willingness to supply man in his choice, though it be for selfish desires which bring shame and troubled mind to man, as in the garden that was perfect.

Proverb 8: 22-32. All souls were created and were with God before the earth was brought into being. All of us were with Him in the Beginning, even as Solomon speaks of being with God, "before his works of old."

John 14: 10-15. Those who put on Christ become the sons of God. We begin to lift the veil when we catch a glimpse of what Jesus' life meant, in bringing about perfect cooperation of the Son with the Father.

Method of Obtaining Cooperation

1st Paragraph. We understand this explanation with what is given of the development of man from his first formation. If we are to understand, we must look to what is the very nature, the intent of man from the very beginning. John 14:10-15.

2nd Paragraph. It was a long time before man became aware of the constant struggle of good and evil within himself. Deuteronomy 30: 10-14. Moses explains how and where we are to meet God. We do not find Cooperation until we turn to God, even as Moses tells the people to turn within for the answer. "Behold I stand at the door and knock." "The word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth and in they heart." And Who is the **WORD?** St. John 1:.

The meeting closed with prayer by **Mr. Cayce**.

Notes, from the Minutes of January 12, 1939

(Word for word, as spoken by Mr. Edgar Cayce.)

17th Verse of Genesis Chapter 2.

How does this compare with what Jesus said, "If I had not come ye would not have known sin?" Because Adam was the one who partook first of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. There wasn't any good and evil in the beginning, except when man disobeyed God. The sin was in the disobedience. Hence, "though He were the Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which He suffered." It was the lack of cooperation with God that caused the great trouble; hence the necessity throughout the ages for making the will one with His-----
"Thy will be done."

Adam and Eve were perfect-----were made for each other. It was not a sin for them to have each other; it was only when they associated with the thought forms about them that they became contaminated and were ashamed before God. Satan tempted Eve-----being a thought form, making himself as good looking as he could; he desired to possess Eve, and she fell. Then she told Adam, "This is a fine thing," and he fell for Lilith-----the first thought form which tempted him. **Then**, when they were both tempted and had associated with the thought forms outside of themselves, they realized they were naked-----ashamed.

19th. Adam named the animals according to their manner of association with their mate. It was then that he realized he did not himself have a mate, and God created one for him, taking the woman out of him. Hence the reason that we must always look within for the answer, never without.

The goose is the only living thing (speaking of the beginning) that only mates the one time (meaning with the one mate)-----unless man forces him. If his mate dies, he will not mate again. So many animals we have today were brought into being by man crossing them. There was originally no such thing as a horse or a mule; they came from the donkey.

Minutes of January 20, 1939

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Cooperation”
and the
3rd Chapter of Genesis**

We alone can separate ourselves from God. Life everlasting is ours if we choose it. In this Chapter we are given the record of man's fall, through his own choice, God did not warn man that he would be tempted, but did tell him to hold to the knowledge he had already been given and the result would be good.

The description of the first fall is given in symbols. Satan, classified with the beasts of the field, is represented as the serpent. Satan, a thought form, projected himself into the serpent for the purpose of tempting Eve. He made Eve think that her association with him was not only something to be desired but something to make her wise. Thus he brought about man's rebellion in flesh, through woman. Satan can only rebel in the flesh **AS** he is able to make man rebel. That is why Satan is referred to by Jesus as the prince of this world. He caused Adam to sin in the flesh.

When we think of Jesus as the first and only begotten son, we think of Him in a much broader sense than just the immaculate conception. Adam was the first and **ONLY** man created by God. The **7th verse** of this chapter gives the first record of Man's knowledge of sin. As through the first Adam sin entered, so in the last Adam (Jesus) all are made alive. Adam as Jesus gives us the example of Oneness with the Father which he knew in the beginning.

The garden is the whole man. The Tree of Knowledge, or the sin, is in the midst, or within. For example, Eve was tempted by something pleasant to the eye, something to be desired, and something to make her wise. Compare this with “Method of Obtaining Cooperation,” par. 3. The voice from within, the voice of their own conscience began to disturb them, but they pushed it aside. Even today it is man's nature to try to forget, or to push aside such prickings of conscience. If we will meditate and pray, God will come and walk in the midst of our garden; for

our body is indeed the temple of the living God. God's place is in the midst of our garden; it is not ours to question or to use other than as He directs.....except to our own undoing.

The 10th verse records the first entering of fear into the experience of man. Compare this with the 4th paragraph under "Method of Obtaining Cooperation." We must seek God's precepts. Adam and Eve realized they had broken God's Precepts, by their concept, by listening to the voice outside of themselves, - the voice of self-indulgence. This is what is meant by their being naked. We shouldn't seek to be wise except in the knowledge of God and his precepts.

The serpent was condemned first. Even today, the serpent is the most feared and most despised of all creatures, **BY** all creatures.

15th Verse.the first promise to the **FALLEN** manthe coming of the Messiah.....the way by which man might be save.

"Be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth," was spoken to the spiritual beings, and not to fallen man. After man had fallen he was subject to the earth. Until then, he did not have to labor for a living. It was the beginning of the struggle to eke an existence from the very dust of which he was made and of which the serpent was to eat.

Through Adam's association with his wife, he realized she was to become the mother of all living, so he named her Eve.

"One of us" refers to the angels of the Lord; such as Michael, Gabriel, etc. Man had become as one of them because he had exercised his ability of choice. Because man's choice was not good, God wanted to prepare a way of escape. Then, man must be born again; of water and of blood and of the spirit.

The ability to gather food supply from nature, or the atmosphere, as does the plant today, was taken from Adam. Then it became necessary to till the soil for that supply.

God has set before man forever that two-edged sword, that consciousness which tells him whether or not he is doing right. "East" is given as a description to

denote something outside ourselves, something we constantly look to; such as the source of light for our material world, the sun.

Method of Obtaining Cooperation

5th Paragraph. In union there is strength. We should look for those things that are harmonizing, rather than conflicting, in our group work, as well as with individuals. Nothing was withheld from man in the garden. Man still has the ability to choose the light or the darkness. All good things are ours if we do not sin. The best things in life are free. When we are covetous, jealous, backbiting, then we are practicing those things that are **AGAINST** God's law **AND** ourselves.

Realization of Cooperation

1st Paragraph. Through seeking to gratify the lusts of the flesh and of the eye, Adam and Eve lost realization of cooperation. Trying to equal Mrs. Jones in her material existence and worrying about what Mrs. Jones will say, is one of our greatest sins today. When we seek first to know what God will say, then we are at peace when others around us may be confused.

3rd Paragraph. Adam and Eve came to the realization of what they had lost by the lack of cooperation with the will of God. We, through the Christ-Consciousness, can come to the knowledge of His glory, if we cooperate.

4th Paragraph. When God created the world, he saw in each stage of evolution that it was good. It is the same with us. As we look for and apply mercy, brotherly love, kindness, patience, we come to know that it is good. We know that it is best to dwell in the house of the Lord.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of January 24, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Cooperation”
and the
4th Chapter of Genesis**

Although parts of the bible history may seem very profane, we find within the first few chapters the basic truths, the foundation, the beginning of man's concept of his relationship to his Maker. If we are to know why we are here, we must attempt to understand the Bible history which is a picture of the evolution of the world. If God is the same yesterday, today and forever, whose fault is it that we are so much farther from God apparently than we were in the beginning? Is it that we have a new concept? Why is man in the flesh today? What is his purpose? What is our relationship to God, and how do we express our relationship? We are finding these questions answered in the first few chapters of the Bible.

According to the record, Adam and Eve were 130 years old when Cain was born. Our government in America today is only 150 years old. If time was reckoned then as it is now, think what changes must have taken place. The records tell us that the moon and sun were made for signs, seasons and years, so we can be sure that many changes had taken place. Cain was the first child born into the world of physically perfect parents. With the birth of Cain, the records suggest Eve's awareness of the source of the perfect child. We see with the birth of Abel that the newness had worn off and there is no mention of the source of the gift, nor the length of the time between the two sons.

In the children of God there was the realization from the very first that there must be some token of appreciation to the source of their supply. Even today, we know that everything comes from God but we think so much of self that we forget to give an offering to Him. We find this the very thing over which Cain and Abel quarreled. We see the indication that Cain brought what was left over, while Abel brought the best of the fruits of his labor. When Cain realized that Abel's offering was more acceptable than his offering, he began to find fault with Abel.

Then, the Lord told Cain to look within and do well and his offering would be acceptable; but Cain looked without, finding fault with his brother. Thus sin lay at his door. God told Cain to rule his desire to excel Abel, but Cain let his desire rule, so that he quarreled with Abel and slew him.

“Am I my brother’s keeper?” We have the same age-old cry today and the answer is the same. What we do to our brother is known to God. As we do unto our fellow man we do unto our Maker. Then, if we speak ill of those who have mistreated us, we are bringing condemnation not only upon them, but ourselves. Anyone who does wrong is always a fugitive and a vagabond on the face of the earth. We are not studying cooperation for the purpose of getting all to think alike; rather that we may learn to do well and therefore be acceptable.

These happenings probably occurred over a long period of time, and not during an hour or two of conversation as the verses would indicate. With the description given of what transpired in Cain’s mind over a period of time, we see the personal experience of Cain’s burden and why it seemed more than he could bear.

It is indicated that God’s mark upon Cain created the first fear between beast and man. Cain went east, outside the presence of God’s kingdom, where there was no conscience. We ask, “Who did Cain marry?” there is no answer unless we accept thought forms.....those things outside the presence of the Lord, - not of the material creation that was part of God. Cain evidently partook of that which was of his own making.....that which was without God’s creation. Civilization ever moves westward; Cain went eastward. He built there his own environment, his own surroundings.

Lamech was the first to take two wives. He realized that because of something he had done he was cursed even greater than Cain. He was the seventh from Cain, which began another cycle.....a change.....a turning point; just as we find that in Enoch, the seventh from Adam, there came a change, in that Enoch walked with God and was not, because God took him.

The sons of Adam present a concept of the **BODY, MIND, and SOUL.**

Revelation 28: 11-17. When the image is there, when it has been built with the mind, it has to remain. 'As the tree falls, so will it lie.'

Here we are given the promise of the Tree of Life, **NOT** the Tree of Knowledge. God's words haven't changed.....it is still "Whosoever will." Here Jesus tells us how to acquire the water of life. What is the water of life? The promises of God as have been manifested for us in our Christ.

Results of Cooperation

Unless we are a better person to those around us, we have not gained much from this study. If we cooperate, then we are the better husband, the better wife, the better neighbor, the better friend. The little world in which we live will indeed be happier for our being in it. In other works, we are partaking of the water of life and we are giving it out freely to those whom we meet day by day.

The meeting closed with prayer by our teacher, *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

Minutes of January 31, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Know Thyself”
and the
5th and 6th Chapters of Genesis**

As in the Godhead, we have the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, so in man we have a three-phase activity; Body, Mind, and Soul, which are figures, or shadows, of the Godhead.....their source. If we will study these we will see how that Cain, Abel and Seth become figures. There were many sons and daughters of Adam, but the first three become figures of the Body, the Mind, the Soul; the Body which sins, the Mind which desires to do right and the Soul through which men begin to call on God for help. Refer to Genesis 4: 26. It was in Seth, the third son of Adam, that men began to call upon the Lord. Here we find the beginning of man's spiritual activity, the realization of a relationship with his source.

From Adam unto Noah may be called the Adamitic dispensation. This covers quite a number of years.

At that period, the counting of the years must have been practically the same as we use today, because they had the sun and moon for signs and seasons, days and years.

Science will tell us that there is no reason why man should not live nine hundred years. But we read that God said, “I will make man's days a hundred and twenty years.”

The first three verses in the 5th Chapter begin with the history of the sons of God, not the sons of men; because the children of Adam through Seth began to call on the name of the Lord, while the children of Cain were going their own way without thought except of their own pleasure.

We see Noah as man's first comforter, - after Enoch, the first preacher. Refer to the General Epistle of Jude 14: 16. Noah was perfect in his generations; which is

to say, there was no mixing of his parents, or grandparents, etc., with the sons or daughters of men.

In Genesis 6: 1-9, we are told that man's life became shortened, because he had mixed with other creatures. There were giants not only among men but in the animal kingdom, because of mixtures.

When such men grew old they were very worldly-wise, from experience; but they were not wise in doing God's will. The fact that God had to destroy every living creature is proof that they had been contaminated by man, otherwise they would have remained perfect as God created them in the beginning.

Only two men had then walked with God....Enoch, and Noah. Let us compare this with John 1: 12-13. This is not referring to Christ and Noah alone, but to all who call on God, seeking to do His biddings. It means us today.

In continuing the Bible Reading, Genesis 6: 10-22, we find the ark and the flood experience is significant of what Jesus said, that "Ye must be born of water and of blood. Are ye a teacher in Israel and know not these things?" The whole experience of Noah is a figure of the rebirth. Water is the mother of creation. Even the measurements of the ark and the periods mentioned have a special significance when we consider our birth into the physical, our awakening into the spiritual.

"Know Thyself"

There were about ten thousand years covered in the generations from Adam to Noah. There were great abilities and capacities in those days for understanding, and yet so few manifested any desire to know other than to justify their own physical selves. Noah found grace in the eyes of God because he acquainted himself with the things having to do with his relationship to God. Yet we find that even he, later, succumbs to physical temptation.

In becoming acquainted with ourselves we have the mental, spiritual and the physical to consider. Let us begin by knowing what we believe, and also **WHO** is the **AUTHOR** of what we believe. We are reminded of the promise from the Master, that, if we abide in Him, He will bring to our remembrance all things from the foundation of the world.

In Lamech's signifying the purpose for Noah's birth into the earth, we see how necessary it becomes for those who are to be fathers and mothers of our future generations to have the right concept of God when they bring children into the world.

Every organ's holy desire is to reproduce itself. Only when attempting to gratify material desires, does its desires become sinful.

SUPER-CONSCIOUSLY we know all these things. Jesus said, "The way ye know." The Mind knows, but we have so covered it up with material and personal, momentary desires, that we pull down the shade and the spiritual vision is lost.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of February 7, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Know Thyself”
and the
7th through 10th Chapters of Genesis**

Apparently before the flood there had been no rain, - everything had been watered by the mist. The flood was not caused merely by rain, but we are told that the fountains were broken up. We do not know whether or not the flood covered the whole earth but we do know that every place today which has a record has a record of a flood.

In the experience of every individual there comes at one time or another a flood, - a physical, mental or spiritual flood, and sometimes all three.

Science teaches that the earth is gradually being added to, or that the mountains are becoming level and that the valleys are filling up. Yet mountains seem to continue to be higher. Just what change is taking place no one knows.

Even in the history of Jerusalem we see a complete change. The streets on which Jesus walked are now many feet below where people walk today, and it is the same everywhere.

That Noah's great ark prepared for a way of escape for the righteous should indeed be a lesson to us in the studying of "Know Thyself." We must know and realize that with all our troubles, all our cares, there is a way of escape **IN** God, through Christ....our own little ark. It is indeed as we have said over and over, that within self through which the escape may be had. This does not mean that we should try to blot out or run away from disturbances; for the Master said, indeed offenses must come, but woe to him by whom they come!

Refer to 8: 20. Why should some special goat, sheep or fowl be chosen to be saved in the ark? Because there hadn't been mixtures? When such questions are asked, we find they are answered in the Patriarchs of old. **WHO** is to question the

Maker, the Potter, as to whether the vase is to be beautiful or ugly? It is up to us not to question, but to **DO** that we know to do.

In the beginning there were thought forms with which men and women intermingled. Such physical forms were destroyed in the flood. Then after the flood there were eight souls, Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives. Refer to Genesis 8: 15. Now if men were to be led away from God it would be through their own mental choice.....not from being tempted through physical forms. The mind becomes the way of escape.....mind the builder.

In Noah and his descendants we find a different kind of man from that in the Adamitic age. Refer to Genesis 9. Man is now developing through the mental processes, and the physical temptations are repeated in the mental. This we see manifested in Ham and Canaan who were cursed because of their mental dwelling upon and being amused by physical nakedness. Thus we see that those who do such become the servants of those who are trying to build constructively, with the mind. (It is indicated that the descendants of Canaan are the black people, which have been servants through the ages.)

It would seem to us that for a people to be of one mind and one language would be a good thing, but we fail to notice the fact that if the mind is not directed in a spiritual way we are only building a tower of Babel which must fall. It is in the minds and hearts of the people that a tower is to be built.....not outside of self. It is only in the spiritual that we live on. Refer to Genesis 11.

Hence we come back to the spiritual man, Abram, who seeks guidance from within and carries out that guidance, becoming the father of the faithful. We have with Abram, or Abraham, the beginning of man's mental self relying upon the spirituality within, - represented by faith, an attribute of the soul.

Know Thyself; The Mental and Spiritual bodies. We see how that man throughout the ages has reaped just what he has sown. In the Bible we see the process of building up from age to age.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of February 14, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Know Thyself”
and the
12th through the 20th Chapters of Genesis**

The life of Abraham as compared with the division of the lesson “**Know Thyself**,” entitled “**Self in Relation to Others**,” led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

We find Abraham's life a very good basis for discussion as to our relation with others. Abraham is termed the father of the faithful, referred to by Jesus in giving the parable about Lazarus and Dives. Jesus tells us that when Lazarus died, he went to Abraham's bosom, which is to say that Lazarus, through faith, advanced to a higher plane of development. Can this not represent an experience in our lives?

Abraham became aware of the influence that aroused something within himself, which often prevented him from being influenced by things around him. Whether it was a higher consciousness or a direct voice, we are to determine within ourselves. It is the opinion of our Teacher, Mr. Cayce, that God is just as mindful of us today as he was of any of the Patriarchs of old, if we will be as faithful as they were.

Abraham married his half-sister, Sarah. Together with Lot, his brother's son, they went into Egypt, into the land of Canaan. Abraham told Sarah to say that she was his sister. The Egyptians saw that she was fair and Sarah was taken into the house of Pharaoh. Abraham received much wealth in return. Refer to Genesis 12: 2, and 7. Because of God's promise to Abraham, He brought plague to Pharaoh's house, to protect Sarah, and Pharaoh asked Abraham to leave Egypt.

When Abraham came back into the land of Canaan he was very rich in cattle, silver and gold. Remember, this was the same ground that had been promised to Abraham and his seed forever, - the same ground on which the Master walked. (The Master also went farther North and into the Samaritan land, or those portions

that had been given to Dan and Issachar many years later than this period we are studying now.)

There was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle and Lot's cattle and Abraham told Lot to choose what he wanted and he would go the other way. It would be very well for us to act in this manner, so when there is condemnation arising in our dealings with our fellow man it will not be upon us. The Master said, indeed offenses must come but woe unto him by whom they come.

When we study those experiences of Abraham we realize that human nature hasn't changed. Then we can understand how that Abraham is not merely a character in the Bible, but is truly a condition in our whole experience.

Lot separated from his uncle and like many of us.....as soon as he began to get rich.....got into bad company. He went into those cities where he could not only live what we would call the "high life" but where he could get a market for his sheep and cattle. The people at Sodom and Gomorrah began to notice Lot's wealth and decided to take it away from him. (Here we see a situation similar to the one we have in the world today.)

Abraham heard of what had befallen Lot and gathered his servants and they brought back all the goods and people belonging to Lot and more, but would have none of it thus showing an example to those who had stolen from Lot. Refer to Genesis 14: 15-16.

Here we have the first mention of Melchizedek. Refer to Genesis 14: 18. Melchizedek is presented as the Prince of Peace, which is the same spirit as our Prince of Peace. It was to him that the Jews paid tribute. He was called the High Priest of God. More is given about him in the New Testament in Hebrews.

In God's promise to Abraham we see that Abraham is to have an heir. Sarah, believing that she could not fulfill this purpose, decided that Abraham should raise an heir by the maid of the house. Then Ishmael is born to Hagar and all seemed well until Sarah conceives and bears her son Isaac. Sarah sends Hagar and Ishmael away. She was willing to have a substitute until the real fulfillment was made. Again we see that human nature hasn't changed.

We find that Abraham was warned about what was going to happen to Lot. After Lot's experience of having his goods taken from him, he again goes to the city to live. Refer to Genesis 19.

Abraham prepared a feast for the angels or messengers of God and pled with God to save the city. Finally God told him that if there were only ten righteous, he would save the city.

Only Lot and his two daughters and his wife would leave the city. Because Lot's wife turned back, she became a pillar of salt. Lot was not very appreciative of what Abraham had done for him. In these two characters we have an illustration of all types of relationships, one with another and what our relations should and should not be.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Jesus referred to this when saying that at the day of judgment more tolerance would be shown for Sodom and Gomorrah than for those cities which refused to hear Him then. Why? Because in the olden days the people didn't understand. All they had seen in relation to the Christ-Spirit was when Abraham brought his nephew back. Melchizedek kept the peace and everybody could go to him for counsel and advice.. But Jesus was greater than those, for he had overcome; hence the judgment would be quite different upon those who had seen Him.

The period from Adam to Noah represents the Physical Age, the period from Noah to Jesus the Mental Age, and the period from Jesus **ON** represents the Spiritual Age. Hence all figures in the lives of such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Samuel and the prophets, are representing **SIDES** of the mental self that are spiritual.

When Abraham began to give away what he had he began to understand man's purpose in the earth. It is the same with us today. We only possess what we give away. We only understand what eternal life really means when we apply the Christ-example in our dealings with others.

Next week: Isaac's life in connection with Self in Relation to Creative Force.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of February 21, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Know Thyself”
and the
21st through 26th Chapters of Genesis**

The life of Isaac in connection with the last part of the lesson “**Know Thyself**,” entitled “**Self in Relation to Creative Forces**,” led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

In the study of Isaac's life we observe that he was “in between” two very powerful forces. In many ways, he was not as powerful as his father Abraham, nor was he a “go-getter” like his son Jacob.

Let us keep in mind the following thoughts, while studying the life of Isaac. First, Isaac was born as a child of promise. Second, he kept himself close to the Creative Force, God. Third, he was what we would today call a Pacifist.

There was no dissension in the household of Abraham until Isaac was three years old. We are told that Ishmael laughed at Isaac. (the name Isaac means “laughed at.”) In this experience we see that Sarah reaped what she had sown, for, did she not laugh when the messenger came to her with the promise that a son would be born to her? Sarah was like so many of us. We **FORGET** the promises of God and laugh at them, saying that they do not apply to us now. What a difference it would make in the lives of all, if we would only learn to rely wholly upon His promises!

The offering of Isaac is a shadow of God's offering of His Son to mankind. Isaac was saved, because God stayed the hand of Abraham and furnished a lamb instead.....which is the figure of the Christ being offered for the sins of the world. For when God gave His Son as an offering, the opportunity was in the hand of man to stay that offering.....but man did not. Through relying wholly upon the promise and putting His **WHOLE** trust in the Father, the Son was able to overcome death.

Our Teacher suggests that perhaps Abraham's hand was stayed because he had not reached that stage of development to be able to resurrect Isaac, and because the promise had been given that in Isaac all nations should be blessed.

Here we find a great lesson in Abraham's willingness to obey God's command, even to the point of sacrificing that which he loved most in the world. It is recorded that God tempted Abraham in this way. It is the opinion of our teacher, that here we should substitute the word "tested" for the word "tempted," for we are told in another place that God tempts no man....that no one is tempted, even by the reaping of the results of his own sins, beyond that he is able to meet and overcome.

Isaac was twenty-one years old when he was offered for sacrifice hence he had come to man's estate and was able materially to rebel against being offered; yet we find that he was willing to be used, never questioning.

From this experience we see that the true relationship to God is the willingness to withhold nothing from Him, - to listen to the voice of God and harken, rather than giving away to the dictates of our personal feelings. This is what is meant by the fear of God, - the fear **NOT** to do what **GOD** has told us.

So often the reason we do not hear God's voice is because we have not heeded when we have been told to do something that was unpleasant, to our conscious way of thinking; but we know....deep within....that our **PLEASURE** should be in doing the will of God, regardless of outward consequences to our ego.

Throughout the ages we find that those who have sought to do the will of God have acted "crazy" when judged from material standards, and from the standpoint of "getting ahead" in a material way. It is the one who follows that inner voice of direction, regardless of "getting ahead" who knows and experiences the true relationship with God.

We are not all tested in the same manner. What would be a test to one would not be a test to another. We are each called upon to withhold nothing, or to put nothing ahead of our relationship with God.

The same force which had given Abraham the promise that in Isaac the whole world should be blessed, asked him to give Isaac up; and Abraham heeded, not questioning. Most of us today would have the tendency to argue, or rebel, if told to give up something which had been promised to us.

Isaac was always the peacemaker, and he was blessed materially. All envied Isaac because materially he seemed very successful. They did not seem to understand that he succeeded because in the main he remembered God. It is the same today. When we comply with the spiritual laws, the physical or material things needed for carrying out our purpose come to us as a natural result.

In all Isaac's activities he kept in close touch with the Creative Force, except in the experience when he told Rebecca to say she was his sister. Here we see the same trait manifested in Isaac as in his father. Again we see that the human element hasn't changed.

Isaac remained true to Rebecca with the one exception.....the experience where he was swilling to submit her to another rather than endanger himself. We see this (the remaining true to one woman), as being very unusual in that day.

Isaac's life was well in accord with the promise which he was to fulfill, in preserving for us.....for the world.....the Christ. We have the same promise today, - that if we will live the Christ-life, all the nations of the world will be blessed through what we do. The promise is even more sure to us, because we have it from the Christ Himself.....that if we will abide in that true relationship, he and the Father will make their abode with us. No greater promise can ever be given to anyone.

We will parallel our next lesson, "**What Is Thy Ideal?**" with a comparison of the lives of Jacob and Esau.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of February 28, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Know Thyself”
and the
25th through 28th Chapters of Genesis**

Led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*:

We will attempt to make this a review of the lesson “**Know Thyself**,” paralleled with a study of the life of Rebecca. Thus, we may draw comparisons as to the source or reason for the stand of many theologians on some of the questions which have bothered us at times, - such as predestination, foreknowledge of God, and the election of certain individuals for a special purpose.

Just as implied on the front of this lesson, “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular,” there must be something within each of us to indicate whether or not we are children of God.

Then, let us see how the study we have been making of the life of Isaac, Jacob, Esau and also Rebecca, may enable us to answer these questions for ourselves.

We remember that Jacob was Rebecca’s favorite son that she deceived his father, that Jacob might obtain the blessing, or was it because of some inner conviction? There is no record of what influence Sarah may have had on Rebecca, but we do know that when a skeptical person is convinced, that person is a much stronger believer than the one raised up under such an influence. Paul is a good example of this. Do we not observe this fact in human nature today?

We see Rebecca as a convert to the faith expressed by Abraham, with which she became impressed during the twenty years she was in the household of Abraham. Although Rebecca was twenty years without children, she was convinced that she was being prepared as a channel through which God’s promises to Abraham might be manifested.

When she and Isaac prayed that she might conceive and her prayer was answered, is it any wonder that she inquired of the Lord when trouble came to her? Evidently she believed that only God could explain what was wrong. Rebecca exemplified the lesson we should learn. Then when we are troubled, and look to God for guidance He will advise and help us. It is only within ourselves that the answer comes to us. Moses said in his last admonition, we do not have to go beyond the sea nor anywhere except within ourselves, - for lo, the message is within our own heart.

Whether Rebecca had the answer through a direct voice, through a dream or vision, or through intuition, we know not, and it matters not. What **DOES** matter is that she **INQUIRED** of the Lord and received the answer.....and was **CONVINCED** of the truth of His message, even to the extent of patterning her whole life by the message received.

Rebecca must have been more and more convinced of the truth of this message as she watched her sons grow and develop just as had been predicted.

We ask ourselves this question: Were those two particular souls born because God predicted it, or were they born in that environment for the working out of their own destiny? It is the opinion of our teacher, that the situation of those two souls was predestined only by their own previous application, and that Rebecca received foreknowledge of that situation **BECAUSE SHE INQUIRED OF GOD!** And because such a foreknowledge was necessary if she was to give the proper training to each.

WAS the situation predestined **UNTIL** Rebecca inquired of God? Let us find this answer within ourselves. His promise has been that if we seek we will find, - if we know it shall be opened unto us.....God does not hide from any man.

How we ask - did Rebecca set to make that come to pass as predicted, or did she act as she did because she believed what God had told her?

Living for twenty years in the environment of the household of Abraham, hearing the promises that had been given to Abraham and his seed, - is it any **WONDER** that Rebecca looked for children? Through the faith Abraham had instilled in her she inquired of the Lord when trouble arose. When Rebecca made this inquiry,

her children were already moving physical beings, - then God knew! For the souls had entered the physical bodies, and God **KNEW** what had been the development, - what they **HAD** done and what they **MIGHT** do!

Could these souls have changed their destiny from that indicated when they first entered the world? Esau certainly could have changed his, if he had appreciated his birthright. God saw this from the beginning; and perhaps Esau learned a lesson of appreciation through his material sojourn as the brother of Jacob, who wanted that birthright more than anything else in the world!

For Rebecca to have favored Esau in something that meant nothing to him, nor to the world, would have been denying the faith she had in what God had told her.....and the truth of which she had been convinced. It is evident that Rebecca had a greater insight into what God's promises meant than Isaac did, when we consider that Isaac was weak enough to try to protect himself by introducing Rebecca as his sister. From this we see why Rebecca felt it necessary to deceive Isaac in order that the blessing of the father should come upon the one whom God had chosen.

We, too, have a position, a condition to fulfill. However, we are no longer tied materially by tradition as in the Old Testament days, but "**WHOSOEVER** will may come and take of the water of life."

Through the Old Testament characters we may see the individual developing through the various stages to reach the perfection which Christ represents in our lives. We see ourselves.....**IN** such characters.....evolving from the purely materialistic through the mental **INTO** the spiritual life as shown in Christ, - in **WHOM** we may completely know ourselves to be what we are and what we shall be, by **HIS** grace.

We see in Rebecca's life the growth from heathenism to a mental understanding that she is to be a soul pliable in the hands of God. We may not understand nor approve some of her actions, but we must remember that it is the purpose and intent to which we hold that counts. When we measure the Old Testament characters by the standard of the Christ, we see many faults and shortcomings; but we must remember that they were only developing **TOWARD** the Christ-

Consciousness.....just as we are today.....and they did not have the Christ-pattern fully outlined for them as we have it today.

The first part of our next lesson, “**What is My Ideal?**” will be paralleled with the life of Jacob, up to where he meets his brother Esau coming back.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of March 7, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“What Is My Ideal”
and the
28th Chapter of Genesis**

The first two divisions of “**What Is My Ideal**” paralleled with the life of Jacob, taught by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

Isaac and Rebecca were convinced that if Jacob married into the family of Heth, their closest neighbors, he would be led off into idolatry. We see how the first part of this lesson coincides with the attempt of Isaac and Rebecca to pattern the life of Jacob after an ideal. It is well to keep this in mind, when we study the life of the family to which Jacob was sent.

That plan or ideal for Jacob, being worked out, later became one of the ordinances of the Jewish people. The general supposition and rule is that they only marry among their own people.....just as they did in the Bible days.

It is the opinion of our teacher that intermarriage of relatives today weakens the blood stream because thus souls are continually being brought back seeking expression through the magnifying of the weaknesses on both sides of the family. When souls continually magnify their own weaknesses through a particular expression, each time the weaknesses to be met become greater. The spiritual expression also becomes magnified, but the spiritual rarely shows itself in materiality except in the manner of dealing with the fellow man.

The patriarchs of old held to a spiritual ideal; consequently their strength was greater, - but if we will study the descendants of each patriarch we will also see the weaknesses or the results of giving in to physical expression rather than the holding true constantly to the spiritual ideal.

In the comparison of Jacob and Esau, we see the importance of having a purpose that is spiritually ideal. With the understanding that his parents did not consider the neighbor women good enough for Jacob, Esau decided that he too, would marry again. This time he choose a daughter of Ishmael, his uncle. But his purpose was not spiritually ideal, for this was done with an ulterior motive. In this respect, even though he obeyed the letter of the law, he understood nothing of the spirit.....purpose of ideal which Jacob had.....thus his marriage did not offer development so far as his spiritual heritage was concerned. Our ideal must ever be spiritual, - or the fulfilling of any material law means nothing to our development. For Jesus said, if we do such things only to be seen of men and for the approval of men, (as Esau did in choosing that particular wife), then that only is our reward.

The principal incident with which we are concerned in this lesson is Jacob's being given a spiritual ideal. This is presented in his dream.....Jacob's Ladder, giving him an ideal to live up to.....that all nations might be blessed.

To lose our purpose, is to lose hold on everything. Jacob may not have lived up to his ideal at all times, but he held it before him and would always go back to the ideal and purpose to which he was holding.

As Jesus said, the children of the earth are often more wise in their own generation than the children of light, because.....when we are without a spiritual ideal, we are more determined, it seems, to attain that which will gratify our individual appetites than we are to give to someone else.

If we could only realize that it is only that which we give away that we really possess! We gain only in giving, - whether in love, appreciation, long-suffering or patience with things that seem unbearable. To lose sight of self is the ideal way, for then the struggle becomes easy and the burden light, in **HIM**.

With the changing of Jacob's name to Israel, we see the beginning of his comprehension, for then he is really seeking, as we find the name Israel implies.

We may not believe in dreams, but the record tells us that Jacob was influenced by his dream. So often we are prone to think such things happen only to characters in the Bible, or others, but why should we? God hasn't changed. If we seek we will

find; if we knock, a door will be opened for us.....just as the door was opened for Jacob and others we have studied in our lessons.

To not understand is to fear.....just as Jacob said (17th verse of the 28th Chapter of Genesis) "How dreadful is this place." Yet with the recognition of what his mother had been trying to tell him, he did not fear.....for he realized he was entering that period when he must rely on his own vision.....just as his mother had relied upon her vision.

Jacob set up a stone as reminder of the promise he had made to his God. So often we are reminded of promises we have made and not kept. Sometimes we are very particular to carry out the letter of the promise.....as in tithing, going to church, etc.....but forget the spirit with which this should be done. Then we are following our ideas rather than our ideals.

We should ever be mindful that our real conception of God is shown by the manner in which we act towards our fellow man. For what we are speaks so loud, few ever hear what we say. **WHAT WE HOLD AS OUR IDEAL IS REFLECTED IN OUR LIFE TOWARDS OTHERS.**

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Cayce*.

Minutes of March 14, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“What Is My Ideal”
and the
9th and 10th Chapters of St. John
and
29th through 32nd Chapters of Genesis**

The following two paragraphs embody explanations given us by our teacher, **Mr. Edgar Cayce**, in answer to questions asked by members of this group.

What did Jesus mean by saying, “He that climbs up some other way is a thief and a robber?” Here we have the inference that Jesus was referring to those who were to become the teachers. We ask the question, “Climbs up where?” Then we see this.....not as climbing to a place but rather a reference to a condition, that each one must find within. Thus an attempt to climb up some way other than following the voice from within.....is to defeat one’s own purpose, which sooner or later will necessitate the coming of a realization that we must start at the bottom of the ladder again. We remember that Jesus tells us, “In my father’s house there are many mansions.” We see this in the various stages of consciousness to which man may climb in the Christ-Consciousness through which we come to the realization of oneness with the Father. Then know, we may only reach that oneness the **ONE WAY**..... the way Christ has shown us by His own life. To do otherwise, is to cheat ourselves of the wonderful opportunity we have through Him to learn the true way to overcome our shortcomings.

We do not think Jesus meant to imply that Moses and all the prophets were thieves and robbers, but rather that they had presented a schooling towards an understanding of the correct way. Then, after Jesus had come and shown the perfect way, there could be no excuse for wrongdoing, or cloak for anyone’s sins. For example: when a child makes a mistake through ignorance, we excuse him; but if he ha been **SHOWN** the perfect way, yet continues to make the same mistake, he is missing the opportunity to learn how to perfect himself in such an

application. We see then, that Jesus was telling those teachers and learned men who were to be the leaders, that it is the spirit with which they should concern themselves rather than the letter of the law. Jesus was saying that those who are satisfied to remain in the old way, when he has shown us a more excellent way, are missing the opportunity to become leaders through their ministry to others.

Genesis 29 - 32. In the experience of Rachel we see a changing of the ideal plan, - the robbing of her own self by the choice of the wrong ideal, the “climbing up some other way.” Rachel and Rebecca had equal opportunity to accept the one way, the one God, but Rachel wanted to inherit the promise through Jacob for her seed, yet she also wanted to hold to the old way, for she took with her one of her father’s household gods.and deceived both her father and Jacob in order to keep it. This seemed more important to her than the preparation necessary to make herself a proper channel through which the promise might come. This is a condition found among many of us today. We want all the good things our religion offers, but are not willing to give up those things which keep us from being worthy of the promise.

Through Rachel’s actions and attitude Jacob suffers also. In this way perhaps we see Jacob’s reaping the seeds he had sown in taking advantage of his brother Esau’s lack of appreciation of his birthright. Study these Bible characters, with this in mind and we will see the truth of the statement that “As a man soweth, so shall he also reap.”

Because of Jacob’s spiritual ideal we find that he is allowed to experience many of the more beautiful things in life. In his final separation from Laban, we come to one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible.which shows an ideal manner of relationship: “The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.”

In Jacob’s meeting with his brother Esau we see an example of the ideal attitude. Jacob realized how he had taken his brother’s birthright and even though Esau apparently was not aware of the value of his birthright, that did not lessen Jacob’s responsibility nor the realization of his guilt. We see the Jacob was repentant, and in humbleness of spirit was pleading for his brother’s forgiveness. This is also a good example of what is meant by “The meek shall inherit the earth.”

Jacob's wrestling with the angel has perhaps an *esoteric* significance (***Definition of esoteric.....taught to or understood by only a select circle.....profound: said of doctrines and beliefs***), which can be interpreted by each individual in the light of his own understanding. Jacob forced a spiritual experience through prolonged meditation. He was not completely prepared to withstand the physical strain and so suffered as a result. Jacob knew certain of the truths of meditation. He sought to awaken his own inner soul-powers and reach a state of greater self-realization. For those who wish to go deeper - we may say that the angel represented the guard of some particular center of Jacob's own body. Though physically unprepared he forced the opening of this center and through this experience came to understand his closer relationship with his God.

If we hold true to our spiritual ideal, we, too, may come out of the struggle with some portion of our body weakened or entirely cut off; for we see in the physical body a shadow of our spiritual pattern. In many of the prophets and in teachers of the New Testament we find there were afflictions in the body which were results of purging and measuring for an ideal. It is evident that we must, at some time, do away with all attributes which do not measure up to the ideal pattern.....which we find fully outlined for us in the life of Jesus, as in no other.

The meeting was closed with prayer by ***Mr. Edgar Cayce***.

Minutes of March 21, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“What Is My Ideal”
and the
2nd Epistle General of Peter, Chapter 1
and the
33rd through the 50th Chapters of Genesis**

“Attaining the Ideal,” discussion led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

When we lose ourselves in a spiritual ideal we become more creative in the lives of others. To become considerate of the whole, rather than self, is the ideal manner of application. All men are equal before God. The variation of ability among men does not make one individual better than another.....for, “he that would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all.” In this manner the ideal is carried into material application of daily life. This is the meaning of true democracy and must of necessity apply to all , whether we live in a small town or large city.

The ideal manner of application in a nation is reached when religious, economic and political groups are joined together in service. Those three phases should cooperate as **ONE**, - just as body, mind and soul. though each is individual, yet one is dependent upon the other.

Even in the heavens all planets are relative one to another, - each doing its part and filling its own place, but not attempting to do the work of the other. The same is true of the ideal manifestation of the body.....when each organ does its part, cooperating with every other organ but not trying to do the work of the other.

When we try to force **EVEN** our opinions on another, we are defeating the ideal purpose. For each soul must find God. God is not individual until He becomes personal.

The More Personal God Becomes, The More Impersonal We Become!

Being in a material world, we are constantly in need of reassurance. If our religion is the result of being a Christian, this reassurance may be found in our organized Christian worship and through constant prayer.

When Jacob had the reassurance and was good to Esau, Esau withdrew and gave over the land to Jacob. It is in this section that we find a list of the families to the time of David. Rachel died when Benjamin was born and consequently did not live to see Joseph taken from her. It is said that Rachel's soul departed....it is interesting to note this is one of the few times in the Bible when the reference to death is given in this manner. It is also interesting to note that Rachel was buried in the place where the order was later given by Herod for the killing of the children.

Here we begin to see in Joseph's life the material manifestation of an ideal, just as in Jesus' life we see the spiritual manifestation of an ideal.

When Joseph related his dreams as a child, Jacob pondered them in his heart, just as Mary pondered in her heart concerning Jesus when he was found in the temple at 12 years of age reasoning with the prophets. In so many ways we see that Joseph's life was similar to the life of Jesus. It would have to be, if it was the material manifestation of an ideal; for we know that the material is only a reflection or a shadow of the spiritual.

We ask the question - If God had spoken to Israel (Jacob) and made him all these promises, then when it came about that Joseph was sold, why do you suppose that Israel was not reassured by God that Joseph was still living? Israel mourned Joseph as dead. Apparently Israel received no reassurance, although he must have prayed often. Perhaps he was being tested, or reaping the seeds he had sown; perhaps he had to pass through a period of trial before he received reassurance that the highest ideal was working in and through him.

In the day of Samuel it is said that God no longer spoke to man in dream or vision. Because man sinned, - not because God was not willing to speak. Evidently, then, it was because of Jacob's sin that God didn't speak to him and tell him where Joseph was.

When Joseph was sold into Egypt, he found favor and things were very lovely for a time, but the day come when these conditions were reversed. Although Joseph

didn't know whether or not it was to be through his children that the earth would be blessed, he lived as though it were, never forgetting his ideal.

Possibly there are those periods for all of us when we must wait on the Lord. It often appears that He has forgotten us. Peter said, a thousand years to the Lord are as one day. Yet in a material plan, there are things to be worked out in the lives of all that require time as measured in the material. Know then that He is every **MINDFUL**.....remember to run with **PATIENCE**.....to wait on the Lord.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*

Minutes of March 28, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“What Is My Ideal”
and the
5th Chapter of Matthew, Verses 1-12
and the
29th through 46th Chapters of Genesis**

Conclusion of lesson, “**What Is My Ideal,**” led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

One of the most beautiful pictures of an ideal life is presented by Jesus in His sermon on the mount. From this we learn that it is the “try” that is counted to us for righteousness.

What is meant by the “poor” in spirit? Here the word “poor” means the lack of....consequently, being poor in spirit would mean the lacking of self-knowledge and self-assertiveness in our own desires or spirit and a richness in the spirit of God.

“Blessed are they that mourn” is apparently contradictory to the verse “rejoice and be exceeding glad.” It is necessary to consider the time, place and the people to whom Jesus was speaking, in his sermon on the mount. The Samaritans, a people rejected by other groups, had set up a place of worship on the mountain, and did not pass through the ritual of the “mourners bench” or “wailing wall.” Those who are troubled and mourn sincerely will be given comfort because of their sincerity.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” This verse, if taken literally is one of the hardest verses in the Bible to interpret, for we see just the opposite taking place in our daily life. We see the fatality of the material-minded in the parable Jesus gave of Lazarus and the rich man. Through being meek we build up a source of power in God which gives us greater power in our experiences in the earth. Thus reincarnation becomes an explanation of this verse.

“Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” This is a divine law. Those who seek shall find, those who knock shall have the door of understanding opened to them.

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” If we are pure in heart we see God in everything and everybody. Although this seems very difficult, it is not impossible, for there is good in every one.

What is the difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God? The kingdom of heaven is within, where God has promised to meet us. We can only find our way back to the kingdom of God, through the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is a condition, a consciousness, through which we become aware of that relationship we bear to the Father.

The kingdom of God is the activity of the kingdom of heaven. The attunement of the individual prepares a channel through which the Creative Forces can give evidence of the kingdom of God. Love, hope, the manner in which we act towards our fellow man are fruits of the spirit of truth and manifestations of the kingdom of God. Just as in the lesson “Cooperation” we learned that the Holy Spirit is God in action, so here we find that the kingdom of God is the kingdom of heaven in action.

A blade of grass is just as much a manifestation of the Creative Force as anything else. **LIFE** is the manifestation of God, no matter in what form it may be found. **THAT** is the spiritual idea. It is not always easy to see the spiritual ideal in material things but the purposes, the intent and the motivative forces must be spiritual in their nature if they are to be lasting.

Our standard of measurement, as presented in the Beatitudes, is in our relationship or association with our fellow man. This is the way we can test ourselves. What we see in others is a reflection of our own standard. If we see good, then our standard must be good. If we find fault, we are finding fault with ourselves
.....*thoughts are things.*

What We Think, We Bring To Pass In The Experience Of Others.

If we would have mercy shown us, we must show mercy to others. It is a natural law, it is the **DIVINE LAW**, it is the law of causation in a material world. Only that we give away do we really possess. This does not mean material things alone. It means giving what we have to give. A kind word, an understanding look, food for the hungry, is truly giving something of ourselves, and is counted for us more than lavishly squandering material gifts.

When we consider the condition of the world at the time Jesus came, we realize that it would have been impossible for the world to continue unless He had offered Himself as the sacrifice. Without the shedding of blood there **IS** no remission of sin. Why? Because in the causation it brought sin. By man was man's blood shed. Death came by sin. Hence, it was necessary that righteous blood be shed for the remission of that sin...the sin of hate, selfishness, etc... Then to do away with sin, that which was perfect had to pass through the experience in the material world, and in that manner take on Himself the sins of the whole world. What would the world be today if there were not those who are attempting to live the ideal life which He set for us? Jesus' life is the ideal for us.

Joseph came into Egypt with an ideal. His ideal was to do good to everyone, no matter what the cost might be to him. Although many hardships came to him, he did not become bitter. He was cheated by many, but did not cheat in return. Who of us would consider ourselves prospered by the Lord if we had to remain in prison several years and endure the things which Joseph endured? Yet it is recorded that God prospered him. If we can see behind apparent misfortune the working of God's hand in our lives, then we are approaching the ideal. If we can live through this "vale of tears" and give the credit where credit is due, praising God for the opportunities we have to show forth His love in our dealings with our fellow man.....as manifested in the life of Joseph and Jesus.....then we are living the ideal life. We are measuring ourselves by the only standard of perfection.....that standard which is found in the life of Jesus, the **CHRIST**.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of April 4, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Faith”
and the
49th Chapter of Genesis
and the
10th Chapter of the
Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews
Verses 15 through 11**

FAITH - “What is Faith” was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

The 11th chapter of Hebrews is considered the best interpretation of faith. While the writing of Hebrews has been accredited to Paul, our information gives that it was written by Barnabas.

Just as our physical body has many attributes, for example the five senses, so our soul has many attributes, such as faith, patience, hope, long-suffering, brotherly love, kindness and many more. We may lose the use of one of our five senses by constant abuse or the lack of its use. Just so, we may lose or become so that we are not aware of the attributes of the soul.

Through **FAITH** we believe, not because of something we can see or feel, but because it answers to something within. Through **FAITH** Peter was able to say “Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God,” while others around Jesus had other explanations, calling him the other prophet, etc.

FAITH comes to us through something which takes place in our mental and spiritual selves. We have **FAITH IN GOD**.....we have confidence in individuals and in material things.

In Hebrews we find the reference to prophecies made by men who were moved by the Holy spirit to give understanding and foretelling what was going to come to pass in the lives and individuals who were then in the material plane....the world.

It is recorded that Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and practically all of the prophets said the same thing that is repeated by Jesus to the woman at the well, that the day would come when man would worship neither in this mountain nor at Jerusalem but in their minds and hearts to do the will of God!

So often we hear it said that the day has passed when the Lord will speak to us....yet in the new covenant we are told that the Lord is to meet us within our own selves. Even then Moses admonished the people to purify themselves, because on the morrow the Lord would speak to them. Have **FAITH** in the new covenant....know that the Lord will speak to us today, if we will but open the door.

Jesus has given His blood as the perfect body. Jesus the perfect man has been offered as the sacrifice....He having entered into the Holy of Holies once and for all. "Behold I stand at the door and knock." On **THAT FACT** then is our **FAITH** to be founded.

It acts with our own minds in the material world. Just as the ability to smell is only one of the attributes of the sensory system....**FAITH** is but one of the attributes of the soul. Looking to this covenant Jesus has made....if we would have faith, we must act on that faith....then it becomes an attribute of the soul.

Being sprinkled from an evil conscience means that we have put away all thought of self and stand **NEW** and purified before the throne of grace. Patience is the exercising of **FAITH**, for in patience we become aware of our souls. Through faith Jacob (Israel) was able to give the last admonition to his sons, telling what was to happen to them, warning them of what was to come to pass.

According to our standards, we wonder why it was that the promise for the coming of the Master was through the line of Judah instead of Joseph. For, according to our standards, Joseph lived nearer an ideal life than Judah. However, as Jesus said about John and James occupying the place next to Him when He came into His kingdom, "It is not mine to give, but is for those for whom it has

been prepared.” In other words, it is the purpose behind the activity of any soul that governs the future relationship. While Joseph’s life was ideal, we do not find the same purpose being carried out in his sons. Because of Jacob’s **FAITH** he was able to foresee what the sons of each would do, or see their purpose which would later bring about certain results. Consequently, he saw the carrying out of the promise through the line of Judah.

Every tub must stand on its own bottom. No longer are the children’s teeth set on edge because the forefathers have eaten sour grapes. Because Joseph’s life was ideal didn’t keep his sons from wandering from that ideal. You see, the purpose behind the attracting of souls to Judah and Tamar must have been such as to keep them in line for that purpose of fulfilling the promise.

How did Jacob see beforehand that it was in Judah and not in Joseph that the promise would be fulfilled? It must have been by **FAITH**. Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his sons, so if he had been giving a blessing according to his own desire, certainly he would have had the promise fulfilled through Joseph. This assures us that Jacob’s last admonition to his sons did not come of himself or his own material desires.

The same thing was demonstrated in the New Testament. Jesus loved John....he was spoken of as the beloved, yet it was Peter who was given the key to heaven, - because the Holy Spirit working through Peter gave him the ability to prophesy “Thou art the Christ.”

Thus we see in these experiences a picture of the evolution of the soul....through reincarnation. Abraham was called the father of the faithful, because he was the **FIRST** to step out on **FAITH**. Jacob is called the last patriarch because he was the last who was able to see what was going to happen for many years to come. This did not come to him because of anything he had done materially, but through his great **FAITH**.

“Faith Is the Substance Of Things Hoped For. The Evidence Of Things Not Seen.” Let Us Have Faith.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of April 11, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Faith”
and the
3rd Chapter of Exodus**

FAITH - “What is Faith” was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

The promise “Ask and ye shall receive” is spiritual in essence, yet being in a material world the promise must of necessity become materialized. We bring the promise into materiality through faith. Our prayers must be in harmony, if we are to receive the promise. Faith will move us to action. Without this faith the promise seldom materializes....if it does, we are surprised. This is how we know when we accept spiritual things in a spiritual way.

While the Master was in the material world He was subject to the material laws, - the need for rest, for sleep, for food, and all the attributes of the physical body. He suffered mentally, materially, just as we do.

If we can get an understanding of the three phases of ourselves being one, - the body, the mind, the soul, - just as the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, - we can understand what is meant by viewing or accepting things in a spiritual way. All three bodies must be in harmony and coordinant with the Great Triune, of which we are just a shadow.

Jesus said, “My Father and I are one,” yet when the mother of James and John asked that her sons might sit on His right and left, Jesus answered, ‘It is not mine to give.’ Again when Jesus was asked “When will these things be?” He answered, “No man knoweth, only the Father.” To answer such questions was entirely out of His realm, and yet he was one with the Father just as our bodies, minds and souls are one. Each has to comply within itself to the laws governing that particular realm and at the same time be coordinant with the other two realms, - though not overstepping nor usurping the authority of the other.

It is hard for us to conceive that we are actual living souls. When we do conceive that, then we can understand how faith works with the material body.

Faith is substance, - thus it has dynamic power within itself. It will remove mountains of doubt. We have no illustration of the Master ever moving anything material out of one's way. He didn't even move the Cross out of His own way. Elisha performed miracles in which material things were moved, just to show that it could be done. Jesus didn't perform any miracle without a purpose of a spiritual nature. **Jesus made everything we call supernatural, NATURAL to the life of those who have faith in God.**

How can faith be wrongly placed? We often mistake ideas for ideals. For example: we have very definite ideas as to what others should do for us, but seldom ideals as to what we should do for others. This same attitude might apply to faith. We have faith in what God ought to do for us, but no faith as to what we ought to do for our fellow man to **Show** our faith in God! Thus we have failure, losing the victory.

A good illustration of this is shown in the story of the lady who was so busy all day preparing for a visit from the Master, she refused to help three beggars who came to her door. When Jesus did come, He told her He had already visited her three times that day, but she was too busy to see Him. Jesus forgave her because she was busy, but the blessings passed her by. God may forgive us for the lack of faith, but the blessing we can have by showing our faith passes us by and we wonder why.....not realizing that it is because we rely on our own worldly wisdom and not on faith.

We may sometimes wonder how we can see good in the rulers who are apparently going against the law of love as laid down by the Master. It is hard for us to see anything but evil in such activity. However, we know, even as Jesus said to Pilate, they have no power save that given from the Father. God has given them the power, the opportunity to show His love. If they misuse it, they must bear the consequences. Even though Pilate washed his hands of the matter it didn't change the fact that he could have acted differently and didn't.

It is the same with us today. The application we make of an opportunity brings right or wrong. All power is one, - we are given free will. It was said to Cain,

“The power is in your hands, - if you do good the Lord will bless you; if no, then sin lieth at your door.”

It is easy to have faith, when everything is lovely, but when everything goes wrong we begin to cry to God for deliverance. We should praise God and thank Him when we are happy and not wait until things begin to go wrong. Jesus withdrew from the crowds in the periods of his popularity. We should also return to the source of our supply, not forgetting the Giver of our time of popularity and plenty.

Some hold that we in America are the sons of Joseph, being the children of Manassah. When we read Jacob's last admonition to the sons of Joseph we can see how this might apply. In the records of the life of Moses God talked with Moses, from this we can see how it applies to us today. Moses was afraid at first to look on his higher self. He was so full of knowledge that it was hard for him to remain in the attitude to receive and have faith in guidance from his higher self. Even in the height of his power as a law-giver and leader of Israel, we find that often he injected his own personal will, enforcing his ideas on the people as law and gospel, when perhaps they were not truly ideal. In many of the Old Testament leaders we find the same condition.for many of them fought battles of material conquest, believing that God had directed them, when perhaps the source of the inspiration was merely their own selfish desires.

Probably we have the same situation today with some of our rulers. They say their faith is in God, and that He has promised to be with them and to make them rule over all nations; whereas we know, through the Christ-spirit, that those who would be the greatest must be the servant of all. We must not forget that Jesus said, “Of all men born of woman there is none greater than John the Baptist, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” **Why?** Because he had not fully relied upon the promise within, and was doubting because his own material desires were not materialized.

We say we have faith in God, that He will “do the right thing by us” if we ask Him; yet we are not willing to submit our will wholly to His Will.

John the Baptist was well versed in the law, the tradition, the promise theoretically; but he lacked that tiny bit of faith which would remove mountains of doubt.

Only in Jesus do we find the complete surrendering of the selfish ego, - the giving over to the will of the Father, in body, mind and soul.

Thus, in Jesus, the Christ, we find the author and the finisher of our *Faith*.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of April 18, 1939

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Faith”
and the
4th Chapter of Exodus
and the
11th Chapter of the
Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews**

“How is Faith Developed,” led by **Mr. Cayce.**

From the records of Moses, we find that he made many excuses for his weaknesses. Just as we, day after day, make excuses for our lack of activity in works that would make for development in the lives of others as well as our own lives.

God has set certain laws in motion. Through disobedience of the natural laws of God, we bring about our own suffering.....therefore all conditions in which we find ourselves are of our making.

We are given free-will.....free choice.....and according to our choice we are confronted with the conditions which are the natural result of that choice. When we are hindered greatly in carrying out our calling, we should remember what God told Moses.....He (God) is greater than any affliction which may come upon us. The God within us is, indeed, bigger than any affliction which may come to us, and is therefore able to turn that affliction into a stepping-stone for higher development.

Perhaps Moses' affliction of speech was to eventually be his greatest blessing.....in that the affliction prevented him from being completely boastful and self-sufficient. Even with this affliction, he cried out “Must I give this stiff-necked people water?” and thus cut himself off from entering the Promised Land. Moses was allowed to see the Promised Land, but he was not allowed to enter the

Promised Land. Apparently his greatest lesson was to be humbleness, - otherwise his great faith might have been misdirected, or he might have had too much faith in himself instead of God.

If we surround ourselves with the consciousness of the Christ-Spirit, we may be sure that we will say and do the right thing, - and be protected in doing it.

It isn't what we profess to believe that counts, but what we live. Jesus never questioned any person as to why he did this or that, for He already knew; but He presented the facts and said "Whosoever will may come."

FAITH begins within our own consciousness when we are able to be humble to the point of smiling and forgiving, no matter how another may torment or torture us. When we can do this, we become free of torture. That's what Jesus meant when He said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." It is thus we make our burdens light.

FAITH is creative. That which is creative cannot be destroyed. Like sound and light, faith can only be diverted into the wrong channel. When we exercise faith we radiate that which is creative and constructive....just as the sunshine brings forth life as we see it.

FAITH as we manifest it grows bigger. Let us live before each individual as we would like that individual to live, - and pray about it.

Irrespective of our beliefs, ideas or ideals, we **LIVE BY FAITH;** whether or not we choose to admit it. If we do not have faith in the God-force within our fellow man, our lives become as nothingness. When an individual finds life a turmoil, a strife, or not worth while, it is usually because of faith lost in someone or something....a misdirected faith.

FAITH is difficult to describe....but we know what faith does in our own personal experience as well as in the experience of others.

"Faith cometh by hearing." Thomas would not have faith in the report given by the other disciples, except when he could see with his eyes, hear with his ears, and touch with his hands the nail prints. It is the opinion of our Teacher that believing

and hearing - or believing and faith, are not altogether the same. Rather that Faith is **BELIEVING** sufficiently to **ACT** on that faith professed.

Faith, then, comes to our physical understanding through one of the five senses. There are many things we have been taught for years to believe without question. Our Teacher does not think that God has asked that of any man. How oft do we find it said in the word of God, "Try me - trust me - know in whom ye have believed." In other words, we are being told to find out whether or not these be true.

Jesus said, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that **I AM** in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake."

James said, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

There is one verse which to the mind of our Teacher, has often been misinterpreted. The 11th Chapter of Hebrews begins, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."

From whom did they obtain the report? Was it obtained because they were elders of the church? Was it obtained from the activities of the people in the church? Our Teacher gives the following interpretation: It was **NOT** from the people that the elders obtained the report. They obtained that which they gave back to the people they were leading. Then they obtained the report from the divine within. "For My spirit beareth witness with thy spirit, whether ye be the sons of God or not."

The next verse reads, "Through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

It seems that God Himself **CALLED** things into being by faith, knowing that He was able.....through the power within. Now if the power was within Him, it must be within us.

“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

If we believe orthodoxly, then we would say that there were only four people left in the world from whom a report might be obtained. If the report was obtained from the people, was it obtained from Cain or Adam or was it obtained from God Himself?

So the elders must have obtained their report from God, which they gave to the people they were leading, or from within themselves - when we speak of “from within themselves” we are speaking of the spirit of God within.

With careful study of this lesson we should be able to find the answer to the following question. If we lose faith in the world, in whom have we lost faith first.....ourselves or God?

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of April 25, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Faith”
and the
11th Chapter of the
Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews
Verses 35 through 40**

FAITH - “Where Faith Abounds” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

We are all seekers after truth, not accepting anything we have been taught but reasoning with ourselves in order that we may be able to answer for the faith that lies within, knowing in what we have believed. And if we have the faith we know that in which we have believed is able to keep us against any circumstance that may arise in our whole experience. Conditions may arise to make us lose confidence in individuals, but it doesn't necessarily follow that we lose faith in the **ABILITY** of the individual. Losing confidence in an individual does not always make us love the individual any the less, if we are able to have faith in the **ABILITIES** of the individual. Confidence partakes of a different phase of life entirely.

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

From whom did he obtain this testimony? From whom may be obtain testimony as to whether we please God or not? It has been given, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” and “God is Spirit and seeks such to worship Him.”

That individual, seventh son from Adam, was able to know within himself that he pleased God, pleased him so well that he was able to even forego the pangs of

death itself. If that was done once, it may be done again. If the way is shown, we may do the same ourselves. And here the way is shown, that by faith we may be able to know what God would have us do, irrespective of the world or what those outside may say. If we are on the Lord's side, who can be against us?

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Then there is a reiteration of all the individuals throughout the ages, who in some particular way or manner have manifested their faith by their works; or in other words they **BELIEVED**, they had faith, and they **ACTED** just as if they believed it! Even though many of them were persecuted, many of them were sown asunder, many of them lived in caves even as the beasts of the field, they were not satisfied to keep other than that faith they had professed. How many of us live according to that which we profess to believe?

How many of us ever undertake to prove God to ourselves? How many of us ever have had an actual experience of **KNOWING** that we had a direct answer to that asked in prayer? How many have had the experience of knowing that we had to choose either this way or the other, and in prayer have had God Himself to tell us the correct path?

I dare to say that many of us are afraid to make such a test. It has been said that “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” I believe it is, unless we know from within that we are pleasing God.

Have we ever tried to serve God though being the answer to someone's prayer? Have we ever made a test that was the answer to someone's **FAITH** in God Himself?

We cannot do anything for God, as he has no need of our weak abilities. We have need of His strength, but in ministering to the children of men God has chosen us to be His ministers. He has chosen us to carry out their prayers, their supplications - and if we lose faith in our fellow man, it is more often because we have lost confidence in ourselves. But let's not lose faith in God because an individual fails to do his duty as we have seen it! Possible it is **OUR** failure to accomplish that which God has asked of us, as we can too often only see our own point of view,

that in which we have already believed. If we **USE** that, in faith, then we are given more and more.

His promise has been, “ye are not tempted beyond that which ye are able to bear.” If we put our whole faith in individuals and their personalities, we may be very sure it will not last. If we put our faith where it belongs, we will be as the elders - who were able to obtain a good report, and we will know whether we are doing right.

Faith, you know, is very much like an old colored man put it “If God commands me to jump through the wall, it's my job to do the jumping and God's job to put me through the wall.” We say that's blind faith. It is **NOT** blind faith! If we are able to obtain a good report, as the elders did. “For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city. They seek a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

If our faith is the working kind, if we know that our faith is properly placed, we will seek to obtain a **REPORT** on our faith - not from our wife, brother or neighbor, but from God Himself! For He is faithful to perform all the promises given, and He will certainly give us knowledge pertaining to our faith - no matter in what direction it may be placed!

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of May 2, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Faith”
and the
11th Chapter of the
Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews
Verses 35 through 40**

FAITH - “Where Faith Abounds” was led by Mr. *Edgar Cayce*.

In the life of Peter we see an outstanding characteristic that may very well be brought to account in our own lives. We are often very mindful to test many things that need the expression of faith for activity. For example, when Jesus walked on the water He bade Peter come to him. Peter’s faith was sufficient to prompt him to walk out to meet Jesus, but when Peter saw the waves becoming boisterous he was afraid and began to sink, - so that Jesus said, ‘O ye of little faith.’”

As to how we can become wholly dependent on God or Jesus to supply our necessities in the material world can only be answered from within. We do know, however, that we limit that supply only by our measure of faith.

Often to people whom Jesus healed, He said ‘According to they **FAITH**, be it unto you.’” Then the healing, mental, spiritual or physical in an individual life is dependent upon the individual **Application of Faith**. When Peter saw the waves, doubt entered. Peter had faith to a degree, but not sufficient faith to sustain him.

God told Moses that He would try him and his people, and that they must learn to rely upon God. These people, numbering into thousands, who had been slaves, were told when they left Egypt that they were to depend wholly upon God. After they crossed the Red Sea they were fed daily for forty years, without having to work. Some students say that the manna in the wilderness was merely mushrooms

which grew over night. Whether it was mushrooms or a kind of frost that formed in that particular region, or a fungus growth natural to the particular region even today which is edible, is of little importance. What is important and should serve as an example for us, is the fact that these people **ACTED ON FAITH!**

When each of the plagues brought on Egypt was cleared away, the expression is given that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. This, not unlike many other parts of the Bible, is of no one interpretation. It is the opinion of our teacher that Pharaoh made his own choice, and the expression that God hardened his heart was merely the manner of expression used by the people to explain Pharaoh's actions. However, the records tell us that the test was for the children of Israel.

If we today saw a wall of water divide and were told that it was done by faith, how many of us would walk through it? Most of us would be like Peter....."O ye of little faith."

We have become so worldly wise that unless we can see a natural cause, or one that science has explained for us, we lose our faith. We are in a causation world and have to be assured, but they that would know God must believe that He is.....and look within. It is so simple to put into words, and so hard when we try to make these simple words a part of our daily lives.

Lesson division entitled:

"Self-Analysis Necessary."

We can free the mind for the moment, but freeing the mind alone is not sufficient, we must also **DO SOMETHING** about it. We are in an active, moving and changing world. We must of necessity go forward or backward, - we cannot stand still. We must change, and grow with the times.

So it is necessary that we have a faith that will stimulate us to action. When the mind is set right, the battle is **ALMOST WON** because the mind is the builder. It's like having the plan and the material for a house, - if we don't put it to use we don't have a house. Hence **JUST** to free the mind is not sufficient, rather the first necessary step for constructive building.

If we pattern our lives after the life of Christ, our material necessities will come to us. We feel that Jesus' feeding of the five thousand was a miracle, but we have seen and do see many just such things happen about us every day, if we would just open our eyes and hearts.

We cannot rise higher than our ideal. Whatever our concept of life is, we can always reach higher. "Hitch your wagon to a star" is truly a good maxim. We should always put our best foot forward. If we constantly impress on our consciousness that we are weak in certain directions, we will always be weak. While we shouldn't overlook our weaknesses and say they don't exist, we should rather the more often pray instead for the strength to meet them and for Him to show us the way to **MAGNIFY** our virtues.

Why does it seem so hard to overcome little things? Because all big things are made up of little things. If we can overcome the little things we don't have so much trouble meeting the big things. We are seldom confronted with a big problem overnight, and never without preparation for meeting that problem. The thief seldom starts out with the idea of stealing a million dollars. No one ever takes a drink with the thought that he is going to become a drunkard. First he takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes him.

We are told to stand still and know that He is God, - yet we are told to be active and show our faith by our works. When we feel we are helpless and have done all we know to do, then we are to stand still. When we have the direction we go ahead. To stand still is to not get restless and fly off the handle because it seems we are blocked, but to stand still until we get what might be called a "hunch" to go ahead. We are to pray about it, for as He has given from the first, "If ye call, I will hear.....and answer right speedily."

It remains to be seen what we can do when we give ourselves wholly to the Lord. If we will be faithful, continually striving to live in accord with His direction, then we will indeed be guided into the truth that makes us free, - mentally, physically, and spiritually. **Let Us Try To Understand That The Battle Is The Lord's And We Have Only To Remain Faithful.**

The meeting closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of May 9, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
“Virtue and Understanding”**

The lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

These lessons are gradually, step by step, taking us deeper into our thoughts and beings. Hence, unless we are careful to digest each portion as we come to it, we may soon find the words as something beautifully said but having no meaning to us whatever. Therefore in this study it is well that discussions become a part of the lessons.

What is the difference between mental or emotional concepts and the activities of the soul and spirit forces? We can define this in presenting again that concept which is common to these lessons, - that they body is three-dimensional, just as the world about us. We are Body, Mind and Soul, - just as there is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are **ONE**, yet each portion has its attributes. The Son, or Jesus, would represent the **MIND**.

In the study of the life of Jesus, we come to realize that He was both physical and spiritual. He was **MAN**, yet He was the Son of God, - the only begotten of the Father. So, we.....too.....are materially-minded, or emotionally-minded, and also spiritually-minded. Just as Jesus was man and God in one, so we.....too are.....in our minds.

The virtue and understanding spoken of in our lesson-study is not the **PHYSICAL CONCEPT**, but from the higher or spiritual-mental concept. This does not mean that the mind is different.....but rather that the mind is both good and bad, depending upon the application made.

As the world looked upon it then, Jesus in His application was a malefactor, a communist; but as we see it and as the world sees it today, there was not the understanding of His virtue, - because at that time such a virtue was not conceived by the world as being possible. Jesus knew and we know now, that all things are

possible with God. "Behold I stand at the door and knock." Jesus **STANDS** in a waiting, expectant attitude for the door to be opened.

We can only understand this virtue according to our own development. Just as our understanding.....our awareness of nature and all the multitudinous forms of life about us is according to our individual development. These are all manifestations of God.....a part of the Great Whole. The magnitude or wonderfulness of these manifestations is always true but we only become aware of it as we grow in understanding, by applying day by day that we know to do.

How true Jesus was as the man, to the purpose for which He came into the world! To those who understand this fact, it brings a peace and a harmony which is only found in being at-one with God.

How can we apply "Full cooperation" in this day of such complexities, when we contact so many with whom we disagree as to the main problems of the day and how they should be met? This is illustrated in the preparation of the children of Israel to leave Egypt.

From the beginning, we see in the experience of individuals that when God called anyone, He brought conditions to pass in such a way that the opportunity was given to fulfill that calling in every detail.

Moses must have been reared in an environment where he had everything. Later, after he ran away.....his environment was such that he was lacking in everything, from a material viewpoint. Consequently, we see that he went through a preparation, just as we do today. Every experience through which we pass is to fit us for our calling. If we study the life of the Old Testament characters, we will see in each one a phase of our own life illustrated for us.

Some of the characters fell far short of the ideal as well as the standard they set for **THEMSELVES**. Moses made the law that Jews should only marry Jews, yet he never married a Jew himself. We can see the same fault in ourselves today. Moses also took counsel and gave counsel which he didn't live up to, yet he is counted as one faithful.....but not faithful enough to wholly enter in. It was only in his last counsel to his people that he admonished them to turn within and seek their individual relationship to God.

Jesus is the only one who never told anyone to do **ANYTHING** that He did not do Himself. He **LIVED** what He taught, - thus becoming the perfect example, the way, the truth, the light. In the life of Jesus we see the completing of **ALL** towards which we are building.

What is meant by His Spirit bearing witness with our spirit? This is something we have to experience before we can understand it. It is like falling in love. If we have experienced it, then we know what it means, although we may not be able to make anyone else understand it except the one who loves us. So, that spirit that is one with Him bears witness through our mental self to make our physical consciousness aware that we are in accord with him. It is the answering one to another.

In the material world we look on the soul and spirit as being one and the same, but in the spiritual world they are not the same. When we put off this body we stand as we are, - we haven't changed except as we have walked out of a house. Then the soul becomes to the spiritual body what our mind becomes to the physical body.

The Bible is a good example of the three phases of man's experience. The Book itself is the Body, the writing of it is the Mind, and what it tells us as we read it is the Spirit or Soul! It is our response to this that makes the motive influence in our lives. In our physical body we have attained what might be (and is termed, in The Book of Revelation) a Book. The influence it bears depends upon how we unfold or **RESPOND** to the unfolding of the pages from day to day.

The fact that scientists have delved into and proven certain laws of the universe doesn't make the results any the less miracles. God says to everyone, "Prove me.....for, by doing such, haply ye may find me!" Yet so often we have the tendency to explain away the miracles of God by reasoning from the mere standpoint of knowledge. The more knowledge we have, the closer we should be to God.....if we apply the knowledge in a constructive purpose.

We are seeing more and more today, that the greater the scientist, the more he is aware of his closeness to God. This is a great improvement.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of May 16, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
“Virtue and Understanding”**

The lesson, **“Virtue and Understanding are Spiritual *and* Virtue and Understanding are Essential to Right Living,”** was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

The tree of life and the tree of knowledge were both in the garden. Then why was it that only the tree of knowledge was forbidden? Let us keep this in mind and we may be able to find an answer as we progress with our study.

From the time that Jesus asked the question, ‘Whom do men say that I am?’ he began to tell His disciples **WHY** it was necessary that He go to Jerusalem and suffer the death on the cross. Would it have been best if we had been given this explanation in the manner that it must have been given the disciples? Possible it was meant that we should study to find out why it was necessary that Jesus die the death on the cross.

The disciples must have understood why it was necessary. Stephen was able to begin at the beginning and tell the people how that Jesus was the fulfilling of all those promises, and that it was necessary for him to die the death on the cross, - and yet he doesn't tell us why.....in so many words. Then when Philip talked to the eunuch he began to describe Christ, beginning at the 49th of Isaiah and telling how he was led as a lamb to the slaughter; also telling how that Jesus was the fulfilling of **ALL** the promises and **WHY** it was necessary, - but still there is no record left for us as to why. Perhaps it was given but left out of the record as we have it.

When we begin to say that it wasn't necessary for Jesus to die the death on the cross, we are doing the same thing that Satan was doing when he said to Eve, “Thou surely shall not die.” From a material standpoint, it would seem that the fault in Adam and Eve was the lack of understanding, - then naturally the lack of virtue. (Refer to lesson study for definition of Virtue and Understanding.)

What did Jesus mean when He said, "If I had not come, ye would not have known sin?" If he had only come the one time as Jesus, would that mean that all those who had come before that time knew nothing of sin? Even towards the last, Jesus said, "**IF** I be lifted up.....**IF I BE LIFTED UP**.....I will draw all men unto me." There seemed to be a question in Jesus' mind even then, as to whether He would be wholly perfect at the end, and able to fulfill that which He had promised, when He offered himself for the sins of the world. We have all been taught that man is naturally a sinner, through the sin of Adam, - that man is born in sin because of the sin of Adam. Then, "As in the first Adam all sinned, so in the last Adam (or Christ) all are made alive." So, if we are born in Christ we are free from that sin.

If we are naturally sinners because of the man Adam, then we are naturally saved because of the righteousness of Christ. Jesus said, "Be ye perfect, even as my father which is in heaven is perfect." It isn't reasonable to think that any one of us could become perfect in this one life. This is merely a standard of perfection towards which we are to work, because Jesus never told us to do anything which was impossible. He did not tell us to be perfect even as He was perfect, - He didn't indicate that He Himself was perfect, although He did say "I am the way, the truth and the life." On one occasion Jesus said, "Call me no good. There is none good save the Father."

Beginning with the time of Adam we can trace a three fold understanding. In the garden of Eden we find **man, the tree of knowledge, the tree of life**.....our first symbols of a three dimensional world. Then we have Cain, the body, Abel the mind, and Seth the soul, representing the three phases of man's whole understanding. In the day when Jesus was offered on the cross, we find three - one who rejected Jesus, one who accepted Jesus, and Jesus Himself. We have the world, the flesh, the devil.....the body, the mind, the soul.....the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. The pattern of three seems to follow throughout.

Jesus said, "I will bring to your remembrance all things from the beginning." Then we must have been with Him in the beginning. That's the wonder of the Holy Spirit. We find that we will be given **ALL** knowledge, when we attain the right of eternal life, thus having all knowledge and understanding. Then the great sin in partaking of the tree of knowledge was the partaking of something which he (Adam) had not earned the right to have. In our first lesson Cooperation, we are told the **EVERYTHING** is ours in harmonious cooperation.

Then we are told in the lesson that **NOTHING** is withheld from those who walk uprightly. Through lack of understanding Adam disobeyed God's law. In other words, Adam was not in harmonious cooperation with God's universe, but was setting up a rule of his own.

Another interesting phase of the threefold understanding is in the fact that....as a whole, the Bible presents three entirely different pictures of God. In the first portion, to the time of Noah, God is referred to as God Almighty. From the time of Noah to the time of Jesus, God is called Jehovah. From the time of Jesus we know God as Father....which is the all inclusive understanding of Him....body, mind and soul in one.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of May 23, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
“Virtue and Understanding”**

The lesson, “**The Way to Virtue and Understanding - Faith is the Chief Corner Stone,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

Let us not think of the characters, in our study of the Bible, as merely historical figures, but rather as individuals who passed through an experience not unlike our own.

We come into a world that is of a very complex nature. As we read of the Bible characters, we see that their lives were of a very complex nature. We are reminded of this complexity in the parable of Lazarus and Dives. When Lazarus died he went to Abraham’s bosom. We can’t conceive of that as being literal. It must be a consciousness or an experience through which the individual soul passes. Abraham represents **faith**. Similarly we find that other characters represent various portions of our own development, - characteristics, we might say, that are within our complex natures.

We have been reading about the preparation of the children of Israel. At the first sin we have the promise that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. Although this is considered by most commentators as the first promise of man having any chance of redemption, we find from our study that Abraham received the first individual promise, **IN** that it would be through his seed that the savior of the world would come.

Then it was prophesied by Jacob that the sceptre would not depart from Judah (Jacob’s son) till Shiloh come, which is to say Judah’s descendants would be the material channel for the birth of the redeemer of the world. Yet we find little or no reference in the New Testament to Jesus being the son of Judah. He is always referred to as being the son of David who is the line of Judah.

In the preparation of this group, the seed of Abraham had the promise of not only the **spiritual** gift to the world, but the **material** gift, each of which was given with a provision that certain conditions be complied with. However there is one instance recorded where there was no provision. It was promised that so long as the earth shall last the day will not come when there will not be a Kenite to stand before the Lord. This is true today, yet these people were not Jews.

It is seldom recorded as to any individual, other than of the Jewish descent, speaking with the Lord. The Jews as a whole were the first people who prepared themselves to commune with God.

God, and Jesus as our Savior, must become personal! Jesus must be that to the individual which can be understood in our daily application. Jesus answers each in his own language.

The Children of Israel were being given an understanding as to how to apply their lives in association one with another, and that understanding which they were given is the basis of the moral code throughout the world today.

It is interesting to compare the Ten Commandments with The Lord's Prayer. We find there is only a difference in approach. The Lord's Prayer, apparently is assuming that all the commandments have been kept. When the rich young ruler told the Master that he had kept all the commandments from his youth and asked "What good thing can I do?" Jesus told him to get rid of self....or all that he had materially which was binding him and keeping him from following **THE** way. We must **LIVE** the life....in the **WAY** Jesus has shown us. The gift of eternal life **EXISTS**. We do not earn it, but we acquire it only by believing in the Master in word and in deed.

The commandment was given, DO NOT KILL: yet we find all through the Old Testament there are experiences recorded wherein "God told them to go up and fight and He would be with them," etc. Again we are reminded, we cannot accept the record of the Bible as history alone, but as a condition in our experience. It is human nature for us to constantly justify ourselves, and to feel that God is with us when we set about to do what **WE FEEL** should be done. In the World War, all sides felt that God was with them. God is not different, but the approach to Him is individual and according to the measure of understanding. The **EXTENT** to

which God is “with” that individual or group is governed by the spiritual virtue of that individual or group.

The Ten Commandments were given to the people then to put them in the correct frame of mind to meet all situations that might arise. That man hasn't kept those commandments, but continually blames this lack upon providence or circumstances, is an attempt to justify himself. Our standard of measurement should be in our **IDEAL, JESUS.**

Do we ever reach the point where we are not irritated or offended? Jesus said, “Offenses must come, but woe unto them by whom they come.” Then, “Be angry, but sin not.”

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” The Pharisees and the Sadducees accused Jesus of breaking this commandment, but Jesus tells us “The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.” The world has tried again and again to change this schedule, and has found that it is impossible for man to preserve a balance unless he takes one day out of seven to rest. Could this not have been what Jesus meant?

We as a whole in the Christian world do not keep the real Sabbath. We keep the day that Jesus rose from the dead which is the first day of the week. When God made man He put him in Paradise. Jesus gave the thief on the cross the opportunity to begin again hence to that individual it was Paradise, while to another with a different approach it might have been as hell. In the Apostle's Creed it is given that Jesus descended into hell, so it must have been to those who were there before He came. Then Paradise and Hell may merely be different to the individual according to the manner of approach. What is sleep but a representation of death? Each morning we are in our Eden or Paradise and we arise to walk in newness of life.

All of these experiences are represented in our own lives each day. We do not learn by just reading the Bible as history, but we learn when we **LIVE IT.** When trials come they are opportunities and should remind us that He is ever present and able to help us meet every situation. The little boy in Sunday School was right when he said, “the Lord is my Shepherd, I should not worry.” We are retarded by the lack of appreciation of our divine birthright.

The Lord's Prayer is divided into three divisions man's relationship to the world about him, his relationship to God and his relationship to his fellow man. Three ways that lead to one, the way shown by Jesus, the **ONE WAY** presented through these Lessons.

Prayer is to the Father. Meditating is meeting the Father within ourselves where He has promised to meet us. Prayer is a pouring out of words. Meditation is the entering into the closet within our own selves, to commune with Him. Jesus has made it a reasonable thing for us to be acquainted with God.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

Minutes of May 30, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
“Virtue and Understanding”**

The last part of the lesson, beginning with **“Virtue is a Defense, Understanding is a Weapon,”** was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Why was Jesus always spoken of as the son of David, instead of the son of Judah or even as the son of Joseph? Paul spoke of Jesus more often as the son of David, perhaps because he was speaking to people who imagined they had accomplished a great deal especially the Romans. The World recognized David as being something extraordinary because of what he had accomplished. He had been a conqueror of the then known world. Consequently, instead of speaking to those people of Jesus as the son of a mere carpenter, or as coming from the line of Judah (**whom perhaps no one would have recognized**), Paul called Jesus the son of David in order to get the attention of the people and to make them listen. No one knew anything about Judah or Joseph, but **EVERYONE** knew of David who had been a world ruler. Just as it is with us today, thus with Paul, the natural tendency was to try to justify his faith from a material standpoint.

Consider, not merely as history but as an experience to each one of us, the manner in which these lessons present the approach to God, and the people to whom God was making promises under Moses when he had given them the Ten Commandments. Let us consider the beautiful prayer given in this lesson on Virtue and Understanding and the conversation between Moses and God described in Exodus: 19th Chapter. What is meant by “lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish?” Why were the people afraid for God to speak with them, lest they die? Here we find a good illustration of the lack of virtue. The people and the world still looked upon God as being something dreadful. Even now there are very few of us who approach the throne boldly and expect God to be our defense. The people have always sought an intercessor, someone to approach God for them. It was the same situation with the children of Israel when they demanded to have a king as other nations.

If anything should happen today as the thunderings and trumpets described in Exodus: 19th Chapter, we would think the end of the world had come, we would be afraid, just as those people were then. Although we say we believe, we **KNOW** we have fallen far short within ourselves, hence our virtue ceases to be our defense, and our understanding ceases to be a weapon. Because of His promise to us we should come to recognize that our defense is in God, *if we try* and **NOT** in ourselves.

Were those actual happenings that are described in that chapter? Why were those happenings referred to as God? God was giving a manifestation, preparing a people for the very things He had promised. He was using what we call natural forces. So many of us want to explain away such things by saying it was a natural phenomenon. The scientists would probably say there was just an earthquake on Mt. Horeb, but they never had such to happen there before nor since. God had told those people, "You can hear my voice." It is only fear that keeps us from experiencing, within our own consciousness, just such experiences as these. If we will correlate all these happenings and apply them to ourselves we will get a better understanding of our own experiences from day to day. If we have such an understanding it is as a weapon to us.

In the 20th Chapter of Exodus we find the warning to man against making or having any other god than the **ONE GOD**. Why was there such a description given as to the kind of altar God wanted? God was showing the people that He wanted the very simplest of altars so that even the lowliest could approach Him in their worship. Then the altar should not even have steps, so that it would be in reach of all.

What is meant by "Happy are those who hide behind the impregnable defense found in the same pureness of self that is demanded by self of a brother?" This means that we should live our lives in such a way that we do not ask **ANYONE** to do more than we are doing ourselves. All of us want and expect pureness in our mother. We want and expect sincerity in our minister. Then, until we can live so that we don't expect more of others than we do ourselves, we cannot hide behind that impregnable defense. This realization takes away the temptation to censure someone else.....giving us the understanding that we cannot possibly see the motive that has prompted another. Jesus never condemned anyone. When the woman taken in adultery was brought before Jesus, He did not condemn her. He

merely asked the one who found himself without sin to throw the first stone. His understanding was such a weapon that He was able to defend Himself and the woman against those who were seeking to find fault.....at the same time each one attempting to find fault was convicted within himself. Not that Jesus condoned the sin of the woman, for he said to her, "Go and sin no more."

These lessons are not impractical, nor just idealistic. Jesus put them into practice. When we find fault with another we are really trying to justify ourselves, and it does not bring peace. When the rich young ruler said to Jesus, "All these things I have kept from my youth up," Jesus didn't contradict him. He merely said, "Then sell what you have and give to the poor and follow me," indicating that was the next step **IF** all the other things had been kept. Consequently he turned away.....he was not ready.....he had not prepared himself. If he had kept all the commandments from his youth, it must have been in form only and not in spirit, - otherwise he would have been ready for the next step which Jesus pointed out to him.

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." Then we can only attain to the mansion we build. If it wasn't possible for each of us to attain to that we build, He would have told us; Jesus made this possible for us.

Whenever we do or say anything that is in accord with the divine or spiritual law, it is with authority, - because **He** is the authority.

When we realize that we are doing things for others not to be seen of others but because we love them, then we know we have passed from condemnation unto life everlasting, - or we have passed from death unto life. Then death is no longer within our consciousness.

When we have attained to an understanding, through our constant trying, there is our virtue, - then we know we have attained to the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Attention: Due to the absence of Mr. Cayce, our next meeting will be June 13, 1939.

Minutes of June 13, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
“Fellowship”**

The first two pages of the lesson was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

If we have sought our relationship to the Father, it has been revealed to us. Very often disturbances from within come because we may not have given credit where credit was due. Whether or not we recognize it as the Father speaking to us. He has in some manner made Himself known to us, for we live, move and have our being in Him.....whatever our position or circumstance.

Our fellowship with the Father is measured by our treatment of our fellow man. We see that man is mindful of worship no matter where we go in the earth. This is only true of man, for man is ever seeking the answer as to the source from which he came and as to the state in which he will find himself when he lays aside the physical body. That seems to have been the impelling force of man throughout the ages, that bespeaks of the diving within.

What is the difference in soul force and spirit force? We are so accustomed to thinking of soul and spirit as being one, that we at times become confused when we think of them as being separate. We understand that in the material plane we are body, mind and soul.....and that they are one. But the soul of man and the spirit of man are different. The soul is the individual, that which we in material manifestation know as a personality, - while the spirit is the motive force within, - it is the spark of the divine within each. As to whether we carry that soul-body back to God or not depends upon us, - we being free-willed. This is why there is that longing within each. We are moved by the spirit that recognizes it has a kinship with something without itself. The spirit is of God, the soul without God has separated itself and is lost. The Spirit is ever willing, it is the flesh that becomes weak.....or the desire of the flesh that may entirely separate us from God. As Jesus taught and as Paul so well explained, there is nothing that may separate us from the love of God but ourselves. And if man seeks to know God, then he is shown the way.

God made a perfect man. The perfect man was in perfect fellowship with the Father. But that man also partook of that error; and because of God's love for man, He sought to make a way for that man to meet that error in materiality, - just as we seek always to save that which is a part of us. God has not willed that any soul should perish (all souls having been created in the beginning) but has with every temptation prepared a way of escape.....or a way of meeting the temptations that come.

As it was free-will which enabled man in materiality to sin, so it must be free-will that will enable him **IN** materiality to return to God. First, in order to return, man must believe that God is, and that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Then if we would know God we must seek. "Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." God has ever promised, "If ye will be my children, I will be your God." No matter how far away we may wander, if we call He will hear.....and answer speedily. This promise is for everyone. It is through **FAITH** that we become aware of the wonderful strength of this promise. If we look only upon the material.....seeking satisfaction for the moment.....we can never know very much about God's purpose for us.

We remember the story of Moses, - how the children of Israel, the chosen people, had gone into Egypt for the preservation of their physical lives. God had told them that they would be called from Egypt. They remained in Egypt 430 years, - grew from perhaps eighty to many thousands. In the first part of their sojourn they had the best of the land, but as the rulers were changed and those came into power who knew not Joseph, or knew not the things that had come to the Egyptians through these people who had sojourned there, they, the chosen people.....were put into bondage. Under their trials.....as alwaysthey began to cry unto God. In keeping with what God had promised, in answer to their cries, He preserved them.....even though the Egyptians attempted to exterminate the Hebrews by killing all the male children at birth. Moses was preserved, in that Pharaoh's daughter took him as her own. He was reared in all the learning of the Egyptians of that day. Many writers call him the great magician of the Old Testament, for he was able to perform all the magic that the Egyptian magicians were able to accomplish and more.

When Moses reached manhood.....which then was about 40 years of age, he came to the decision as to what he would make his life work. He chose to answer

that call to fulfill the purpose for which he had been prepared but he went about it with his own strength, and was rejected by his own people. Because of this he ran away to the land of Moab, where he remained as long as he had been in Egypt. Then he had the experience or vision and received the strength to carry out his life work.

None of us think that God is different today, yet we say that all such experiences or visions are things of the past. If so, **why?** Is it because God has changed and no longer speaks to us, or is it because we have wandered away and no longer seek God? From the very beginning it has been shown us that man has to move out on **FAITH**, - first believe that **GOD IS**, and then act in that manner which makes that **FAITH** known.

Throughout the ages we find that human nature has always been the same. The same three characteristics in the nature of man have been his stumbling-blocks, - namely, self-preservation, self-exaltation, and self-glorification. Many of those in olden days were guided by one or the other of these natures within themselves and accredited God with guiding them, when it was their own selfish natures. However we see the result in each instance.....only in so far as the purpose was pure and free from **SELF** did the blessing come.

It is the same with us today. “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” If the seeds of selfishness are sown, they may appear to prosper for the moment, but only the real and true foundation in spirituality may weather the test and remain. Let us be true to that spark of the divine within.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of June 20, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Fellowship”
and the
34th and 35th Chapters of Exodus**

The lesson, beginning with the paragraph, **“As A Book Is An Offer of Friendship” to “Fellowship With God The Need Of The World”** was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

A very good example of obtaining fellowship through relying on His promises is found in the law and ordinances given by Moses to the people entering the Promised Land. These are merely a shadow of the promise given to us in Jesus Christ.

Before these people arrived in the promised land, or as they went out of Egypt, Moses was given the ten commandments, and an outline of the ordinances, also specific directions as to how to build the tabernacle, even to what the furnishings were to be. When we look for the metaphysical interpretation of the furnishings of the tabernacle, and the manner in which it was built, we see that it was not only a perfect building but is emblematical of our own body.....which is the temple of the living God.

The temple prepared by David and built by Solomon was a replica of the tabernacle built in the wilderness.

When Moses came down from the mount and saw the children of Israel worshipping the golden calf, he became so angry that he threw down the tablets on which God had written the commandments and broke them.

We ourselves have experiences today such that we often break ourselves, our bodies or minds, over things that are just as useless. We do not see such a display

of temper in Jesus' life, even though from a physical standpoint He was able to do something about such things that were not in harmony with the **LAW**. Yet we realize that the law and ordinances given to Moses were God's offer of fellowship, and friendship, in His dealings with a people.

Moses gave many rules and regulations in his attempt to interpret God's offer of fellowship, but Jesus presented it very simply in showing it to be a promise including all the ordinances and laws, in "Love ye one another, even as I have loved you."

From the very beginning, those who had fellowship with God were considered those who had a word with, or a message from, or a vision or unusual experience with influences or forces outside of themselves. We forget that the promises of God are ever the same, - and that if we keep His purposes, He will direct us even as He did those people then.

The measurements given for the building of the tabernacle are very significant, for they are in proportion to man's own capacity for learning....in his body through which he obtains the understanding and has the influence for the use of the knowledge obtained. Metaphysically the description given represents the body of man. The word "Ark" itself means a covenant, a spanning or fulfilling, or that in which a promise is fulfilled. Thus the rainbow is an arc, - the arc being a portion of a circle. The mercy seat above the ark is the privilege of choice which is given each individual. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and know." The choice is to the individual.

Fellowship is an awareness of spiritual relationship one with another. If we love one another, we are desirous of giving expression to that fellowship. The ark was made as a pattern of that place within man where God has promised to meet us. Then as Jesus gave, the time will come when we will worship neither in this mountain nor that temple, but within our own heart....the Holy of Holies which is our own conscience, the nearest dwelling place of the Master.

For He, Jesus the Christ, was a manifested infinite power while even in the earth, - not to His own purpose, nor satisfying of material desires, but for the **COMPLETING** of that necessary in flesh to **MAKE** that offering, that altar, that standard by which man has access continually to the Father.

The offering of the high priest before the altar, or ark of the covenant, was a means, a channel, to give the assurance of God's fellowship with man. Jesus, the first, the only begotten, is offered **ONCE** for every one, and in Him we have the fellowship with the Father. We are to prepare and attune ourselves for that fulfillment, by making the individual preparation of the ark within us.

God changes not. He does not get far from us, save as we move away from Him, - because in Him we live and move and have our being. The heart of man physically is capable of the most deceitful and wicked desires, but it is also spiritually capable of raising the body to become the divine channel. That is another cycle of extremes, and an example of the fact that extremes only meet in the Christ Consciousness. We can fool our conscience, or so cover it up that we do not hear it, but the heart of man cannot deceive itself. In other words, the heart becomes constantly aware of the result of that sown.

We are each a manifestation of something that **IS** spiritual in its concept. Because man **Is** the expression in materiality of spirit, he is desirous **ALWAYS** of having something before him as a reminder. With the realization that we are body, mind and soul, there is also the longing within for the continuation of our own experience.

In the olden days it was necessary to make sacrifices, - men were called upon to give the best of what they had in material things. Jesus had fulfilled the law in materiality. The type of sacrifice we are called upon today is a giving of **OURSELVES**, in following the example of the Christ.

As we approach the throne through following the pattern He has cut for us, then we are laying up for ourselves that which indicates the fellowship we have with God.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of June 27, 1939.

**General Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Fellowship”**

The last part of the lesson, beginning with “**Fellowship With God The Need Of The World**” was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Truly the need of the world today **IS** closer fellowship with God. In most every country, with most every people, there is the thought or idea that their present position is the result of their being ordained. **This is true.** It is when we begin to rely on our **OWN INTERPRETATION** as to our duty to our fellow man, forgetting that God should be considered first, that fellowship is merely used to magnify self in the eyes of others. This differs greatly from the pattern presented by Jesus; for Jesus did not consider what the worldly men would think of him. Then if we have the correct fellowship with God, we are able to love one another in the way Jesus demonstrated.

If we have fellowship with God, our hearts will not be troubled, neither will we be afraid, and our prayer will be for others instead of ourselves. If we love God, understand and believe His promises, then our love for our fellow man is a natural result, and without effort.

That is why the first commandment was given to love God with all our heart, mind, body and soul, and **THEN** our neighbor as ourselves; for until we have accomplished the first, we are not able to accomplish the last. Otherwise we might have an imperfect love for our neighbor, just as we love ourselves selfishly or think more highly of ourselves than we should. Only when we see and know ourselves in our perfect relationship to the Father can we rightly or unselfishly love our fellow man. This law works both ways, - for only in manifesting the fruits of the spirit in our relationship to our fellow man are we able to find ourselves rewarded in the sight of God. First we must find the answer within ourselves, through communion with Him, and then we must **APPLY** that we have gained from Him, - else the blessing does not come.....to ourselves or others.

How could those who lived previous to Jesus know that they were going to be saved? On what grounds could they have thought of themselves as being saved, unless the idea had been presented to them? When we become confused about such things we have lost the idea of the oneness,.....and the fact that Jesus was from the beginning. There was never a time when **HE** was not the leader, attempting to show us the way, - just as we realize that there was never a time without a Christ-mass, the Christ-Spirit directing.

In the olden days, according to the Bible record, there were many wise men.....not even of the Jewish people.....who, through meditation and prayer, had fellowship with god, - who manifested this in their dealings with their fellow man. It was a natural consequence. When we have true fellowship with God, we **MUST** manifest it in our daily dealings.....it is impossible to contain it, - it must overflow to others.

Man's self-exaltation has been the tendency in all times throughout the world. We should remember that it has been revealed to us from the very beginning that **God** must come **FIRST**.

If Jesus had not come into the earth when He did, the world could not have existed any longer, because the people had gotten so far away from God. Jesus came and created a balance. This should be our attitude in word and deed today.....now. Choose to put Jesus first. Then it is our job to do the leavening, to create a balance, to counterbalance the evil by overcoming evil with good. We have been told to resist not evil. When there is non-resistance the enemy is left floundering, without a leg on which to stand. **THIS** is what is meant by overcoming evil with good, - not that we should remain passive in times of stress, but **POSITIVELY** doing good.

Throughout the ages, the fault hasn't been that people didn't **KNOW**.....but rather that they didn't **APPLY** what they knew. Jesus lived a perfect life in the earth that we might have a pattern to hold before us daily. Jesus had the ability.....the power within Himself to use the forces, yet He did not abuse this power. He fed the five thousand, but he did not give them cake, - He only used what they had at hand. Many people before that time had been healed or raised from the dead, - but no one had ever raised **HIMSELF** from the **DEAD**.

So we know that we, through His example, are supposed to raise ourselves constantly from the dead. We find ourselves in one day's time passing through many of the phases of life which He manifested on earth, - and we are called on to pick ourselves up and march ahead, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." When we recognize that it is this power within which doeth the works, and not we of ourselves, then we are conscious of our fellowship with the Father.....and "no man can pluck us out".....because the source of our strength and guidance is in Him, - not in ourselves **OR** in any other man.

Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me, Peter?" And Peter answered three times, - representing the body, the mind, the soul. But only when Peter began to **APPLY** or to **MANIFEST** that love, by feeding His sheep, did the love prove itself. Just to have communion with God is not enough, - although it is the first step. We must **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT**, to show where we stand in our relationship with God.

All scientists and wise men who study nature come every close to God, and thereby are able to be great servants of mankind, - but unless they individually recognize the sources of their power as being in God, the blessing spiritually does not come to them.

Most of Jesus' illustrations and parables are concerning nature. The kingdom of heaven is likened unto various forms of nature.

If we have fellowship with God we are constantly in the position of lending strength to the weak, - bringing about a balance.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of July 4, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Patience”
and the
1st Chapter of the
Second Epistle of Peter**

The first part of the lesson on **Patience**, - through - “**Value of Patience**” was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Patience, along with kindness, hope, brotherly love, is described by Peter as being one of the seeds of the fruit of the spirit. Unless we have added each of these to our own activity, in such a manner that they become our emotions, we haven't made them wholly practical in our lives. This does not mean that we should reach the place where we don't get mad; rather that, even though angry, we should sin not. This will come easier to us if we remember that the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.

We are purges when we accept Jesus as our guide, but we do not receive the fruits of the spirit until we practice sowing the seeds.

All of us as parents or as individual members of a family realize that if we do not manifest patience in dealing with those about us, the result will be very bad indeed. Patience is one of the attributes that indicates God's presence in the earth; therefore we should apply patience in our daily lives and when dealing with others.

We come to recognize time, space and patience, as being a part of our three-dimensional world. In this manner we become aware of God's presence in the earth.

Why is it that we lose control of ourselves and say or do things that are opposite from the exercising of patience? Probably because we are trying to give expression to our own ego and haven't learned the better way to do it. This is true of the man who gets drunk. He feels he is then not responsible.....and with this excuse he is covering up something, when in reality he is trying to get away from something and usually that something is his own self. Many people think they can be more impressive when they drink, not realizing that they are sowing the opposite seed from that which would really make them free.

When one has patience it is presupposed that he also has faith, with virtue added. The faith is in God, the virtue is in self, the knowledge is in both God and self, and temperance is the application to ourselves as well as to others. Then comes patience, which is the beginning.....we might say.....of the application of the other attributes of the soul, or the fruits of the spirit. We have then obtained the more perfect understanding of the relationship that we gear one to another.

To patience then we add godliness. In other words, if we have patience, we won't speak profanely, - for to take the Lord's name in vain is a lack of patience with self, or the attempt to express self rather than the ideal we represent.

We have not attained, nor can we manifest the real fruit of the spirit unless our patience, virtue, knowledge, temperance, godliness, brotherly love, and kindness can become our emotions. Consequently, the man who speaks profanely in the presence of anyone, has really attained more than the man who gives vent to his temper only when he feels he does not need to conform to convention, - for this man knows he is doing wrong, or he would not try to hide behind convention.

We know that God is patience personified, yet it is so hard to keep in mind. What God has promised He fulfills. It is recorded that God lost patience when He saw the people of Israel before the golden calf.....and Moses is accredited with pleading with God and reminding God of His promise that in Judah all the nations of the earth would be blessed. This seems strange, because Moses first lost his patience with the people and was so angry that he broke the tablets on which God had given the commandments. However, when he realized what he had done, Moses must have tried to appease his own conscience by pleading with God to forgive the people, - he was really pleading as much or more for himself, because he realized he had lost control of himself. Even though Moses knew he had then

acquired such knowledge that he could make himself materially the leader of all the nations, he also knew that God's promise spiritually had been otherwise, and in order to fulfill his own purpose he must conform to God's purpose. Consequently, he must have been pleading, really, with the God-force within himself; not the all-powerful Creative Force without. For we know that God **IS** the perfect patience, and only in His Son, Jesus, who became the Christ, do we see a perfect manifestation of patience in the earth. It is given that though He were the Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which He suffered. Through patience He became aware of possessing His own soul, and thus being at-one with the Father. A wonderful illustration of what the Son accomplished is given in the book of Job, which is an allegory of His entire manifestation in the earth.

Patience is the very kernel of the whole relationship to the outer world, to our own selves and to God. Patience is, we might say, the heart, - that by which we can judge ourselves and our relationship not only to God but to our fellow man; because we realize more and more as we study the Scripture and these lessons, that what we think of God is sown by the manner in which we treat our fellow manand not in what we profess to believe.

We shall all be tried as by fire, and the fire is nothing more than our own temper. Most people are learning that the after effects of expressing anger are very destructive. When we have set certain vibrations in motion, they are bound to come back to us in some way.

Patience certainly does not mean merely remaining placid on allowing others to walk over you. Patience means being positively constructive in the face of pessimism or destructive attitudes, - not only by our conversation but by our every act! We ourselves must cultivate patience. It is just like sowing seed for a garden. We each have a different soil, and what is necessary to protect and preserve one type of soil might be wrong for another. Hence we each must be the judge as to how well we are sowing the seed and caring for our own garden.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of July 11, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Patience”
and the
26th Chapter of Leviticus**

The lesson on the **“Means Through Which Patience is Gained.....It Takes Patience to Run the Race”** was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Jesus used many parables in the illustrating not only what the kingdom of heaven is but where the kingdom of heaven is to be found.

In practically every one of these parables the key note is *PATIENCE*. For instance, the kingdom of heaven is compared to the man who had a hundred sheep. When one of these sheep went astray, he left the ninety-nine and sought diligently for the one lost. Some may think the man was foolish to leave the ninety-nine sheep and search for the lost one. But there was more rejoicing when he found the lost one than there was over the ninety-nine that did not stray. This is an illustration of the means through which we acquire and manifest patience. This kind of patience is anything but passive. If we can express or apply patience in that which we know to be a weakness, and run with patience the race set before us, then we can really rejoice.

It is in such a manner that we become aware of the kingdom of heaven being within, for we first have to make up our mind as to our purpose and determine to pursue that purpose. Not until we apply ourselves in that direction, are we making a practical application.

Patience is just one of the many attributes of the soul to be magnified in our lives. These attributes are a part of our consciousness or awareness, and when we make application we become conscious of the creative power within.

We must learn not only to have patience with our fellow man, but to have patience with ourselves. Often we become disturbed over our own weaknesses and lose patience with ourselves. Only in manifesting patience can we become aware of the promises made to us by God, as being true in our lives today. Too often we look upon the record of these promises as being made merely to those people who lived in that day and age, when in reality they apply to us.....now.....today.

If we make God a promise and do not keep it we are stealing from ourselves. The word of God is a two-edged sword which cuts both ways. If we do not comply with God's laws the natural consequences come to us, and then we wonder why we are subjected to such misfortune. It is simply that we are constantly meeting that which we have created.

Too often we overlook the fact that the laws and methods of training the people, as laid down in the Old Testament, are just as applicable in our lives today. Jesus said, "Search ye the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life." We only have eternal life if we **THINK** we have it. If we search the promises of old, realizing they are true, we will see how those same ordinances may be applied in our lives today.

God always keeps His promises. He blessed Solomon because of his wise choice, but because of his weakness told him that when he died the blessing would pass from his Son, - that because of His promise to David, it would not pass from him until after his death.

If we will study the Old Testament truths and apply them in our lives, the truths in the New Testament will be much easier to understand. For to understand and apply the truths in the Old Testament is to build a foundation which will enable to us to keep the commandments given by Jesus.....for these truths fit one with another. Did Jesus acquire His relationship with God only in one experience, or did He learn it throughout His various experiences in the earth? It is step by step, line upon line, here a little, there a little, that we become aware of our true relationship.

What is spiritual warfare? It is the two natures constantly warring. This is illustrated in the Book of Revelation, also in the first conversation God had with Cain.

The greatest reward we have from the new covenant is from one who has completed the old. He came to fulfill, to make all of it worth while in our daily life.

Patience is like a halfway station. We have time, space and patience. Without space there could be not time, without time and space there could be no patience. We grow aware in time, space, and patience.

Life is one great whole. We are merely unites of it, and consequently necessary one to another. We are as tiny corpuscles in the body of God.

Patience is the ability to endure the passage of time until we arrive at that place in our minds where there is no time and no space. Then we know that we are with God. We need patience when we have reached an awareness of the goal, yet haven't reached the goal. Patience, therefore, is that which helps to carry us toward the goal.

The law is set. So long as we live by the law we are under the law, but when we lose sight of the law itself and **BECOME** the law through **LIVING** it, then we are no longer under the law except of grace and mercy. It is then that we develop patience in the highest aspect.

Whom the Lord loves He calls into service, and hence must be taken through a course of training....which is spoken of as a chastening. If God loves us, He puts us through all our karma so that the dross may be burned and we can become purified and ready for service. It may appear to others that we are being very badly treated, but when our ego has been purged we are ready to proceed in the Lord's way and not our own; or our own way **BECOMES** the Lord's way.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of July 18, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Patience”
and the
8th Chapter of Luke**

The lesson beginning with paragraph **“It Takes Patience to Run the Race.....through.....3rd paragraph”** was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the work, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Of course each of us the considers ourself good ground but for purposes of impersonal consideration let us consider this portion of the parable as applying to those who have attained to a point or position in spiritual evolution. They are capable of ringing forth good fruit. (For the other seeds either bring forth bad fruit or none at all.) Jesus points out that only with patience can this good fruit be brought forth.

This applies mainly to the Spirit, for it is in the realm of the Spirit that true patience operates at its best.....helping the soul to bide its time and to prepare for the destiny toward which it is growing; for as the soul moves on its way toward God, it finds itself growing further and further away from material and earthly bonds. In this situation there would be great loneliness, were it not for the fact that the presence of the Master comes forth to meet the traveler and join him on the journey. For He said, “My spirit beareth witness with your spirit.” “In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

It is in this darkness of the night of time, between the shearing off of material ties and the meeting of the Christ, that patience serves as the guide and the comforter. That is why patience is a virtue exalted above knowledge, understanding and faith.

Every great achievement has come as a result of long preparation. This is illustrated by historical characters such as Napoleon, Lincoln, and Wilson, who prepared and planned with patience for their destiny.....their great opportunity. But we must not be idle. While we wait, we must strengthen our weapons for the battle. We must train our minds to think, for mind is the builder. If we do not take advantage of every small opportunity which presents itself, we are not making proper preparation for the **BIG** opportunity which will eventually come for the fulfilling of our destiny.....and thus it may pass us by. Patiently we must prepare ourselves, that we may recognize our destiny, and be capable of fulfilling it.

When we get impatient we are alone, - feeling lonely, neglected and abused. When we are patient, as God is patient, we are still within, and know He is with us.....and that in His time, when we have made the proper preparation.....he will set before us the crowning glory of our lives, - the opportunity to fulfill our destiny, and bring forth the fruit of a perfect soul.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of July 25, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Patience”
and the
Bible Study of
Malachi, Matthew and John**

The last part of the lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

To understand patience we must understand time, and the fact that time means much to us and very little or nothing to God. Refer Malachi, 4th Chapter. Thus Malachi could prophesy a Redeemer who in the mind of God was imminent, but in the calendar of man was 400 years away. To wait for this Redeemer through long generations of sin and suffering required patience, and even the faithful were given to doubt. For even John the Baptist, who was sent to announce the coming of Christ, questioned the identity of the Master when He appeared. (Refer Matthew, 11th Chapter - 2nd and 3rd verses.) “Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”

At this same time Jesus showed how long the way to heaven is and how patient we must be to travel it. For He said of John the Baptist, “among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Matthew 11:11

The closer we approach to heaven the more we need patience, for the comforts of earthly things fade away and there are times when it seems that God is always just beyond our reach. To enter heaven we must be perfect, and so, even though we have been chosen and proved worthy, we must wait until we have cleansed ourselves of every fault. This is where patience is needed most, for it tries even the greatest soul to detect in the distance the magic of all the melodies of heaven, and yet not be close enough to hear the full beauty of the music.

Often too, the last test is the hardest, for our best loved, earthly habits are the last to go. And again, we may be persecuted for the sake of our mission, and not know that the persecution is necessary - as Beethoven did not realize that his deafness was necessary before he could hear, within himself, the wonderful music that was a gift from heaven.

We must have patience, therefore, to endure everything that comes to us, keeping serene in faith, in hope, and in charity, for as He has said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the Branch cannot bear fruit to itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me, I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. (refer John 15: 4-5)

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Study Group

Note to our members:

We welcome suggestions as to manners in which these Minutes can be made more worth while to your personally. Perhaps there are some questions you would like to submit for discussion, to be answered in the Minutes. Perhaps there are verses in the Bible concerning which you would like to have Mr. Cayce's interpretation. If so, don't hesitate to ask; for it is only in our seeking that we are able to "draw out" Mr. Cayce on any point for discussion. "**SEEK** and ye shall find."

Minutes of August 1, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Open Door”
and the
17th Chapter of Luke
Verses 11 through 23**

The lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

In the story of the ten who were cleansed by Jesus it is pointed out that the door to the heart of only one was open, so that although all were physically healed, the power which performed the miracle only passed into the understanding and consciousness of one. That same thing happens to many of us. We pass God by because we do not recognize His presence, and therefore have not opened the door for Him to enter.

Question: Explain the meaning of the 20th verse, quote.....”The kingdom of God cometh not with observation.”

Answer: Observation here means keeping laws and observing feasts of the church. This alone means nothing. It must be accompanied by parallel activity in the mind.

Q: Explain the meaning of the 22nd verse, quote.....”The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.”

A: The disciples will wish that they could have one of their days with Jesus back again after he is gone, to ask questions that will come up.

At this point there was read a quotation from a recent Reading which was thought to have a particular bearing on the present lesson.

Quote: All must accept those principles of **ONE GOD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM**. Any that would lead in a direction other than this may very easily become heresy in the experiences of those who learn, or who are taught, or who are induced to believe that there are other channels for perfect understanding.

For, these are times and occasions when every effort should be made to preserve the universality of **LOVE**, as was and is presented by those who seek the way through **HIM**, who is the light of the world!

He alone has overcome the world. There may be many signposts, many roads that lead to the Cross; But the **CROSS** is that through which all gain the greater concept of the purpose of life's expression with human soul endeavoring to seek the light.

We sometimes feel that our one and only desire is to do the will of our Father, yet what is His will for us? As given of old, we should not expect someone either from heaven or from over the seas to bring us a message, a direction; for it is within our own self alone that the contact can be made.

Let us liken it to the radio, the telephone, the electric light. The current for either of these is within our own self. Knowledge may be had as to patterns and illustrations of either of these, and may be brought to our attention by material things; yet for us to enjoy that understanding which comes from even the use of these in their material application, we must make the effort, we must make the contact, we must make the attunement.

For our body is indeed the temple of the living God. There He has promised to meet us. There He has promised to make Himself known to us, - His will, His purpose with us.

That may NOT be supplied by another. If it were true that it might be supplied by another, why the need of the Son to suffer the death on the cross, to offer Himself as a sacrifice? He offered it not alone for us, for the world, for the souls of men, but for His **OWN** being!

We, too, are sons of the Father, God. We, too, are the brethren one with another. If we seek we shall find, if we knock it will be opened unto us. Unquote.

Question: What is meant by the Cross?

Answer: Here it is used in its symbolical meaning of man's free will and his knowledge of right and wrong, making a cross upon the divine law of God as expressed in nature and the universe. On this cross man must suffer until his materiality has passed away and his spirit **rises free**.

Question: What is meant by the inflexible law?

Answer: The law seems to bend or give way in mercy in certain cases, but this is a natural working of the law brought about by the power of someone's prayer, or sacrifice, or love.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of August 8, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Open Door”
and the
5th Chapter of Matthew
Verses 3 through 48**

The lesson on the paragraph, “**Preparation of Self,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

There is a fundamental difference between the Oriental, or Eastern way of preparing the self and the Christian, or Western Way. The eastern mystic looks upon the mind as a hindrance to this attainment of Samahdi, or heaven. He teaches himself to expunge the mind, so that he can find the Oneself, or Christ Consciousness. The Christian way, which Jesus came to teach, is the way of the illumined mind, or the mind which is trained to lead the way to the Christ Consciousness, and then **VOLUNTARILY** sacrifice itself at the altar of the final attainment.

In the mystical teachings of Christianity, mind has always been the Savior-God, sacrificing itself for the sake of the soul. Jesus showed in His life how the mind may be developed to a point where it perceives the goal and knows it must be sacrificed. Jesus died on the cross and arose from His death to be reunited with the Father. So we, as a final step in our salvation, must sacrifice our minds on the cross, and from this death of the ego the soul will rise to join the Father in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The mind then, is the leader which shows the way. Moses led his people through the Wilderness of Sin for 40 years, and gave them the law of life on this earth. But Moses could not enter the Promised Land. He led his people to it, and then lay down on a hillside, a voluntary sacrifice to the attainment of the goal of his people. The preparation of self for this final step is not easy. In the 4th Chapter of

Matthew, Jesus outlines very definitely the means by which we can made the last strides toward the kingdom of heaven. He tells us what we must give up, and what we will receive in turn. He points out the difference between the outward, or exoteric law of Moses, which forbade the killing of one another, and the inward, or esoteric doctrine which He taught, giving the same penalty for the purely mental sin of anger. The esoteric doctrine is a difficult one. It is only for those who have attained to a certain place along the way. To them it is the manner of fulfillment of the final promise. It is the last and golden stairway to the **OPEN DOOR.**

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Harold Allen.*

Minutes of August 15, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Open Door”
and the
10th Chapter of Mark
and the
10th Chapter of the
First Book of Samuel**

The lesson on the paragraph, “**How to Open The Door.**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

When we reach the entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven - when the door has been opened - unless the self, the ego, drops away, it will prove to be a bar across the entrance. So it was that Saul, even though he had been told by Samuel of his selection to be King, and even though he had been accepted by the Prophets, his personal self stepped in to so misinterpret these things that when he arrived home he did not even mention them. He was unaware that the door had been opened and that he stood upon the threshold.

In another instance a rich young ruler asked Jesus what good things he could do, since he had already kept the law since his youth. When Jesus told him to give all that he had to the poor and take up the cross, he was extremely sad. This young man was not unaware that he had been shown the way to open the door, but he was filled with sadness because he could not help loving and cherishing the riches he had been told he must give up. Whether or not he did give them up we are not told. If he did, he was undoubtedly sad at seeing them go, and he illustrated the truth of that Beatitude, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” If he did not do it, then again, self, or the ego, stepped in to bar the way.

Again and again Jesus said that the only way to the Kingdom of Heaven is the way of the cross, which He showed to us in the flesh. We must take up the burden of a

soul that is of God, burdened by the weight of flesh in all its ills and illusions, and carry it forward until by the efforts of our mind we have caused the whole of the burden to slough off. Then we are perfect, "as the Father who is in heaven."

It is the activity of the mind which carries us along the way. It is the constant longing, working, praying, that builds the steps of our own ladder to the door. And always as we try to manifest outwardly the convictions to which our minds bring us, we must listen always for the still, small voice which will tell us that we are on the right way, and which will show us where to go. This is the whisper of the God within us, which will rise to a symphony of imperishable beauty as we march through the portals of that land from which there is no need to return.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of August 22, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Open Door”
and the
17th Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 12**

The lesson on the paragraph, “**How to Know The Father,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

In the 17th Chapter of St. John, Jesus shows us how we may know God the Father by revealing His own relationship to God. Jesus speaks of Himself as having been with God and as having been glorified by God before the world was. He mentions His work that the Father gave Him to do on earth and says that this has now been completed. Therefore He requests God take Him back unto Himself whence He came. He asks that those who follow His example on earth and live a perfect life, be blessed also by God.

Jesus had completed at this time the journey through life which for us is the pattern of perfect existence. He had demonstrated the ability of a human being to accomplish this difficult feat. He showed that when this has been done - when we have lived in the way and followed it - we will know God. This is the only way by which we come to a knowledge of the Father. It is a gradual realization which grows in our minds as our minds expand and reach out for the reality of Spirit. As Jesus knew His Father and spoke to Him, so we may know the Father and speak to Him. For if we attain the Christ-Consciousness then we know God; and if we merge our minds with the stream of Holy Spirit we know God. This is the Trinity.

The most practical way in this world to move ourselves in the direction of God is to demonstrate toward our fellow man the love we feel for our Creator and the things He created. For every man is as much of God as we, and by serving Him we serve God; by helping him we do the work of God - and, by the same truth, we help ourselves. Yet each of our neighbors must be approached with regard to the

state of spiritual development in which he swells, and he must be given what he needs, not what he thinks he needs, or what we think he needs. We may think he needs education; he may think he needs a job; what he may need is a good example which we may and can set for him. The thing for us to do is seek and pray for the wisdom to give the right service. When we do this we are trying to follow the way, we are seeking to know the Father.

When the mind is seeking to find the way to the Father, many questions arise as to right and wrong, especially in connection with our acts toward our fellow man. Are we helping someone, or are we just sticking our nose into someone else's affair? Are we being charitable, or are we forcing our gifts on someone because it pleases us to have their gratitude? Very often it is hard to distinguish between what the ego desires and therefore puts forth to us as truth, and what is really truth. It is in such times as this that we should seek to be quiet, and listen for the still small voice which is always right because it is the voice of truth itself. When we can hear this clearly we are coming closer to time of our great realization, when we will know the Father.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of August 29, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Open Door”
and the
1st Chapter of Jeremiah
Verses 17 through 19
and the
2nd Chapter of Galatians
Verses 19 through 21**

The lesson on the paragraph, “**The Kingdom of the Father,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

We have the direct testimony of a man who achieved the Christ-Consciousness in the statement of Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians. He testifies to the fact that he has risen to a point where he is no longer affected by the law of life, since he has abided by it so well that he has become part of it and risen above it. He further testifies that he has suffered the crucifixion, and he states specifically what happens in this crucifixion. He continues to live, he says, but he lives without his ego. The life which invests him is the life of the Christ. Therefore he finds himself raised above the law and unable to do wrong, or frustrate the grace of God, because he has become a portion of God.

When Paul gave this testimony he was still alive to the people about him in the sense that any of us is alive. Outwardly in physical appearance, in his actions and gestures, in his personality he was unchanged from the man he had been as Saul of Tarsus and Paul the Christian missionary. Inwardly he had changed completely. Both the intellectual Jew and impassioned Christian had passed away, and in their place stood the Christ-Consciousness. Paul had reached the Kingdom of Heaven. He had opened the door of his heart and God had entered in.

In the words of God as spoken to Jeremiah, we have evidence of what work is expected of a person who has reached the open door. God tells Jeremiah what he must do, and how He will help him to do it and protect him from harm. We should remember this when we feel moved by the misunderstanding and criticism of others, to abandon that which our hearts tell us to do. It is then that we need to pray and we will find that our prayers are answered.

It is difficult for most of us to reconcile ourselves to leaving this self behind when we enter the kingdom. It seems to us that this can only mean a forgetfulness, a loss of knowledge of who we are - in other words an extinction of ourselves as complete as that when we are unconscious. This is a difficult tenet of philosophy to understand, yet we have the evidence of Paul and others that we do not actually lose ourselves but rather lose concern with ourselves, so that we dwell in an eternal moment of ecstasy, conscious of ourselves only as a realization of this ecstasy.

Furthermore, to those who are reluctant to leave their ego, consider that Paul says he has now taken on the individuality of Christ. Who would not give up his own petty personality to assume the majestic stature of Jesus Christ, in Whom, when we die we are born again, (*the death referred to here is the death of the ego, or self, not of the physical body*). To become Him is the greatest triumph of individuality that can be accomplished. It is the assumption of the Christ-Consciousness. It is the opening of the door. It is the entrance into the Kingdom of God.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Harold Allen*.

Minutes of September 5, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“In His Presence”
and the
9th Chapter of Matthew
Verse 27
and the
23rd through 26th Chapters of Matthew**

The lesson on the Introduction and paragraph, “**How to Become Aware of His Presence,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

When we practice sincerely the attributes of Godliness, we can expect to find ourselves looked upon as eccentric, odd, abnormal, and almost everything but that which we are. That is because the greater number of people, taking on the color of their own spiritual environment, look upon those who depart from their way of doing things as unnatural. These people give lip service to the doctrines of Christianity, but they look with amazement upon anyone who practices them. Nor are we ourselves entirely freed of this attitude. For although we may study the laws of God and think that we are making an effort to carry them out, what would we think of one of our number who began to spend each of his Saturdays visiting prisons? What would we think if we went to pay our respects to a dead friend, and a stranger walked in and tried to send us out of the room, pointing to the coffin and saying, “He isn’t dead; he is just asleep.”

We would probably act much as did those people who were present when Jesus raised the young girl from the dead. They ridiculed Him, because they did not realize that they were standing in the presence of life itself. When Jesus stood before the dead body death was in the presence of life, and death had to go. The girl was returned to life through life itself, and for us she symbolizes that birth again in Him.

Question: Whose faith was it that justified this miracle?

Answer: The Faith of the girl's father. He had gone to Jesus when the girl was sick and led the Master for a long day's journey to the house, in the belief that Jesus could cure his daughter. While he was gone the girl died, but through the faith of the father life itself was brought to the house and it raised her up.

Likewise in the case of the man stricken with palsy, - it was the faith of those who lowered him from the roof which justified the cure.

When we realize that we are in His presence, when we have the Christ-Consciousness, we are not worried or concerned with what others may think or say about us. That is because we have lost concern with ourselves by taking on the individuality of Christ. There is a great difference between knowing about Christ and knowing Him. When we know **ABOUT** Him, He is to us an objective force or personality, just as other people are objective individuals and personalities. When we **KNOW** Him, He is to us as we are to ourselves. That is the Christ-Consciousness, and if we have it we are able to practice in this world the attributes of God without concern for the opinions of man.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of September 12, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“In His Presence”
and the
9th and 10th Chapters of John**

The lesson on the paragraph, “Preparation,” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

Note: The meeting consisted largely of the Bible reading and a discussion of the various points in them. It is suggested that you read these chapters before examining the questions and answers below.

Q. 1. Why did Jesus use clay in performing this miracle instead of causing it to happen without the use of a material agent, as in other miracles?

A. 1. In order that the man might have something to do himself, as an expression of his faith. He was told to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, and it was there that he received his sight.

The Pharisees looked on the man's blindness from the purely material law of cause and effect,--not from the spiritual law of grace and mercy.

The question of the man sinning before birth presents again the idea of reincarnation.

Q. 2. What did Jesus mean when he said that neither the man born blind nor his parents had sinned, but that the glory of God might be manifested?

A. 2. It was not that the man had never sinned, but looking at it from the positive spiritual angle he, through being born blind, was having the opportunity to be in the presence of God, or recognize in himself his oneness with God. His blindness was his opportunity.

Q. 3. What did Jesus mean by his remarks to the Pharisees on blindness? Refer: 9th Chapter of John, verses 39, 40 and 41.

A. 3. All those are blind (or in sin) who claim one thing and live another. The man born blind was able to see because he took advantage of the first opportunity he had presented to him to believe in the power of God and **ACT** like it; while those who questioned him **CLAIMED** to believe in God yet did not recognize Him in manifestation. The man was healed by doing what Jesus told him to do, by having faith to do it. Jesus gave him to understand there was something for him to do, and he did it; he manifested his own will....in accordance with divine will. Jesus had to give him something to do physically, for otherwise he had nothing in which he could put any faith.

Q. 4. Who are those referred to by Jesus as His sheep?

A. 4. All who believe are His sheep.

Remarks on paragraph---Preparation

The preparation of self to become aware of being in God's presence is with each individual, because He has said that we are gods. When we have gained such an understanding, we wonder how we can induce this or that loved one to also have it. This may only be done by living it in self, - and thus we may induce others about us to try it. It may not be accomplished by nagging and finding fault. We would not want others to find fault with us! Then we must live toward others so that we do not find fault, but find the good in every experience.

Each soul is God in the making. Hope, desire, longing for self expression are a realization that God is ever with us. So few of us ever take thought of what is our ideal. We say that Christ is our ideal but is our manner of living in keeping with this? Giving our life in the service of others is living the ideal we should hold.

The meeting was closed with prayer by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

Minutes of September 19, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“In His Presence”
and the
14th Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 21**

The lesson on the paragraph, “**Experiencing The Abiding Presence,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

The very fact that we have a longing for something eternal shows that we have at some time or other been aware of His Presence abiding with us; else we would not feel the lack of it.....or the lack of awareness of it.

In His Presence a few loaves and fishes were sufficient to feed five thousand. This was a material demonstration. In the spiritual, - he came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Whenever anything comes into the awareness of His presence it is magnified, - whether it is a material thing or a mental or spiritual concept.

“Suffer little children to come unto me” is indeed the greater promise to the earth. For unless we become as children we cannot enter into the awareness of His Presence. We must learn to become as little children. No faults, no hates remain in their experience, until they are taught to manifest such. The life of Jesus was as that of a little child.....for He never rebuked, held malice or hated anyone. We cannot find an any instance where Jesus gave a negative suggestion or reply. It is only through this practice that we can ever expect to walk with Him.

As we live and move and have our being in Him, so He is the supply.....whether it be material, mental or spiritual. For these are the representations of the Godhead within the awareness or consciousness of the individual, - the Body is the Father, the Mind is the Christ, or son, the Soul is the Holy Spirit through which all

approach is made. For even as the Spirit moved, matter came into being. So as the Mind became the way, the truth, the light in materiality, - as we apply same in our experiences day by day we become aware of His Presence.

We all desire, somewhere, sometime, to attain to the Christ perfection. If we hold to this purpose, through mind the builder, with prayer to the Father, we will sometime attain this perfection.

Q. 1. How can we keep from holding resentment against those in authority today who seem to be leading in a direction opposite to Christ's teachings?

A. 1. As a little child said once, - since it is the Devil that has caused all the trouble, we'd better start praying for the Devil. We know it is the natural law that offenses must come, but we must not be the offenders. By manifesting love instead of hate or resentment, we might be able to dissolve the offense and disseminate it so that it would have no adverse effect.

In reference to the 18th verse we have the following comment. This is not hearsay - we may all experience it if we will but give ourselves to be channels.

The meeting was closed with prayer by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

Minutes of September 26, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“In His Presence”
and the
15th Chapter of John
Verse 13**

The lesson, pages five and six of, “**In His Presence,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

Do we realize how few things Jesus, in His whole gospel, has asked us to do? And He has promised that whatsoever we ask in His name, if we keep His commandments, will be done. This does not mean foolish things, though often even these have been granted when we least have expected them to be, and often to our own undoing....for no real prayer or supplication ever goes unanswered. For we are gods, and we **ARE** in the position at one time or another where what we foolishly desire becomes a part of us, - just as the psalmist gave, that which he hated he became, and that which he feared came upon him.

The old concept, as presented by writers in the Old Testament, was of a God to be feared, a God Who was jealous. Such attributes were accredited to God because of man's magnifying in his own consciousness his ability to be a co-worker with God. He gave God the same characteristics he possessed himself. When we look at all things about us in nature, we realize that it is only man that attempts to control or to force or to govern the influences about him. We remember that God told man to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth, - that is, understand it. Consequently, it is only when we do not understand....because of our own petty reasoning, our own petty jealousies, our own petty hates....that we become fearful; for we feel that something else, or someone else, may have a greater power over us. And fear is the thing that weakens us, takes away our ability....even physicallyto think straight. But if we understand ourselves, and recognize that we are in His presence (that is, in the presence of our own better selves....for our own better selves **ARE** in Him), then we may be strong in His might, and unafraid.

Sometimes we feel that the promises of God do not apply to us, that they were meant for Moses, Elijah, Samuel, or someone to whom He has shown special favors. God has no favorites. Whoever is our favorite becomes the favorite of God, so far as we are concerned, - because all we can know is that we **OURSELVES** manifest of God. The more we attempt to manifest in keeping with what He has commanded us, the more we have Him. If we loved one another as He commanded, we would prefer all others before ourselves; and that's what in reality love means, - giving, giving! God gives us everything. And whenever we really love, we...too...want to give and give! He gave us our lives, our purposes, our hopes, - whatever we have is of Him, - because He loves us, because we are His children.

Let us consider each soul as a corpuscle in the body of God. We know what it means in our own bodies when one tiny structure goes wrong. Then what must it mean, what an ache it must be to God when we ourselves do that which is contrary? The natural thing, unless we abuse our bodies, is for our bodies to renew themselves constantly. Then, why shouldn't we.....because we are of and in Him.....constantly renew our awareness of association or contact with that which gives us so much life?

Q. 1. What do we need to feed our spiritual nature, and how may we get it?

A. 1. First, there must be the analysis of self and the purposes, the motives, of self; then we must know that they agree with **our ideal**.

Q. 2. What is our ideal, spiritually, mentally, physically?

A. 2. It should not be what we **wish God to do for us**, but what we may do in appreciation of the love shown us. The ideal is not merely what we would like to be, but what we may **mentally** give that will be conducive to constructive thinking in the experience of others.

In the physical it should not be what we want others to do for us, but what we may do for them!

These are what we mean by constructive thinking, and as they are applied within the experience we will come to see what a spiritual life means. It is not the eliminating of pleasures, for the purpose of life **IS** pleasure, but that which is constructive and not destructive!

Jesus enjoyed the pleasures of life more than any other teacher of whom we have record.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of October 3, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Cross and The Crown”
and the
16th Chapter of John
Verses 12 through 15
and the
17th Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 5
and the
18th Chapter of John
Verse 1
and the
19th Chapter of John
Verses 17 and 18**

The lesson, Introduction through paragraph, “**Our crosses are of our own making,**” was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

We always associate the Cross with Jesus, never being quite able to see it except as something outside of ourselves. It is true that we recognize many crosses we have to bear, but if we would approach them in the same manner that Jesus approached His Cross, we would be able to see the glory behind the bearing of our crosses. We seldom think there is any glory in bearing our crosses in this life. If we use Him as the Pattern, we have a different concept and we go **JOYOUSLY** forth to meet our crosses, knowing that we are merely meeting ourselves coming back, - in our journey back to the Father.

Jesus asked that the Father glorify Him, that He might glorify the Father. This should always be the spirit of our prayers. We should only pray for that which will enable us to serve, or better glorify our Maker. Through asking for that, and

living it, Jesus was able to become the Christ, and to send the spirit of His soul as the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to guide us into all truth. If He had not borne His Cross, - He would not have had this glory, - and neither would we.

Q. 1. What is meant by the Spirit of truth speaking not of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear?

A. 1. The Spirit of truth being the Spirit of the Son who gave Himself, in order that we might be free from sin, is free from selfishness, - and thus does not refer to Itself as a personality. It acts upon us, if we are seeking unselfishly, that we may glorify the Father not ourselves. If we seek selfishly, then we attune ourselves only to those forces which seek to gratify themselves, or speak of themselves, through us.

Q. 2. Since we realize nothing happens by chance, what significance is there in the crucifixion of three, Jesus being in the Middle?

A. 2. Here we have the three phases also; Jesus in this instance representing the Spirit; the one asking to be remembered representing the Mind; the other representing the World.

Q. 3. What phase are we representing?

A. 3. One minute we may be representing the seeking mind which desires to know God and have His help. The next minute we may be representing the indifferent world. There is such a difference when we remain in a seeking attitude; meeting our crosses joyously, knowing that they are the natural consequence of some law we have broken! If we realize that they are **FOR** our understanding (our way of escape, as it were, from the wrong way), then we would indeed come to know the truth and the truth would make us free.

We have another great lesson in Jesus' last prayer. Although He had completed His work, He asked to help others. Too often when we have overcome some obstacle we forget to help another to do the same. We should help others learn to use this formula; not by preaching and saying "Look what I've done," but by showing them **HOW** we did it, so they.....too.....may try.

We find ourselves so often seeking a thrill in material things. When we come to the realization that we are His, and that He can have His way with us, we are in line for the greatest thrill that is possible to man....the thrill of realizing that we can be channels through which some doubt, some fear may be removed, and some hope realized.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of October 10, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Cross and The Crown”
and the
3rd Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 18**

The lesson, beginning with paragraph, “**He overcame through experience.**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

An explanation of how Jesus fulfilled the whole law is given in His conversation with Nicodemus. Some claim that such questions as asked by Nicodemus are not intended to be answered or understood by man. However, this does not seem to be true if we consider that Jesus, in His answer, indicated that Nicodemus **SHOULD** have known the answer already,---having been a student of the sacred teachings. It is implied that Nicodemus had not gotten the real spirit of the teachings, ---only the letter of the law. Consequently, he did not understand what Jesus was telling him.

Why is it that we, today, do not understand so many of His teachings? Because we do not seek the spiritual interpretation. We are always looking for a material explanation, when.....so often.....a material explanation is not clear unless we have the spiritual background first for such an interpretation.

Dives wanted to warn his brothers, but if they would not heed the law nor the prophets they would not heed even though one rose from the dead. It is first necessary that there be the seeking for an understanding, before it can be given.

If we hadn't looked to the Cross, or tried to overcome our weaknesses in the manner that Jesus has shown, then we meet our karma also, but he had understanding of it....after having been with Jesus in paradise, the inter-between, where he became conscious of his faults and that necessary to overcome them.

What a difference there is when we know **WHY** we are meeting something, instead of meeting it as under a taskmaster!

Did Jesus choose to come into the world, or was He sent? Both. Before He could be sent He had to be willing, and prepare Himself to be sent. If we look on Him as being the Mind of God in the earth, we can see how it was necessary for Him to come, - that He might experience all things in the earth and thus show us the way out. He **JOYOUSLY** met His karma, instead of being driven to it.

What did Jesus mean when he said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up?” He was referring to the Cross, and what it would stand for. There **IS** magic in looking upon the Cross, but there is even greater power from **LIVING** the Cross. Later Jesus said, “**IF** I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me,” - that is, by the very power of having lived the Cross and having become the Way, the Trust and the Light.

The serpent has always been the symbol of the mind. Then Jesus became as the mind, crucified on the Cross, - that is, the ego.

When we become worldly-wise, it is hard for us to take stumbling words from someone else; just as it was hard for the learned men of that day to take the words of the uneducated disciples of Jesus. Yet we have been told to remain humble, to be in the position of learning a lesson from even the lowliest of God's creatures. Let us remember that He did not come to save the worldly-wise, but those who are without hope, those who have become discouraged. We should never glory in material power that may be about us, but only in God; because he that is the greatest is the one who is the servant of all.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of October 17, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Cross and The Crown”
and the
4th Chapter of Malachi
Verses 1 through 3**

The lesson, beginning with paragraph, **“We must bear what He bore -- through first paragraph sheet #6,”** was led by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

The crown is the spiritual recognition of having overcome self. There is something for us to **DO**, in order that we may be aware of His presence abiding with us. The awareness does not come by merely wishing for it, but there is a price to pay. The price is the bearing of our own individual cross. We have been told that every knee shall bow to Him, in recognition of the spiritual crown He has won.

Each of us has different attributes. We are not presented with greater obstacles than we can meet. We should remember this and not make excuses or blame our failure upon someone else.....as Adam did.

Our greatest temptation is in exercising our power to show what we can do materially. The urge to show material power when Satan said, “If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread,” must have been Jesus’ greatest temptation. Those in authority who exercise their power to serve rather than be served, are manifesting the Christ-Spirit. The pattern we have in the life of Jesus does not indicate material reward for our good deeds. However this pattern does give us the promise of a spiritual reward.

Commercially we may have the opportunity to gain materially in a manner that is questionable, yet considered “good business.” We can estimate the true value of

any action of our part by the result it might bring into our lives, and into the lives of others.

This does not mean that we should be, or instruct others to be, goody-goody. Rather that we should be good **FOR** something. In our activities it is better to do the **WRONG** thing than to do nothing. The man given only one talent hid it, and it was he that was questioned and had the one talent taken from him.

Then, in seeking the answer to any problem, we must know innately what is our ideal, - then, what we desire to do about it. Most of all, we must be honest with ourselves; never doing in a mental, physical, or spiritual manner **anything** that is questionable to ourselves. If we do what is right and just, we will be content and at peace within even though others may criticize us. Contentment is a joy and the natural result of being at peace within self.

In Adam and Eve we have an example of the difference between being satisfied and being active. Adam was evidently satisfied.....having gotten into a lazy state of sitting back and resting on the merits already attained. Eve was evidently very bored, and sought activity. In this we see how the greater responsibility for Eve's fall goes back on Adam. Eve had not been forbidden the fruit, but when she partook of it, it was very likely that Adam would also partake, for Eve was part of Adam. Thus her action makes Adam to blame, for evidently he wasn't looking out for Eve as he should, or Eve would not of had the opportunity to talk with Satan. In this manner we are shown how the sins of omission are greater than the sins of commission.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of October 24, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Cross and The Crown”
and the
18th, 19th, 28th, 40th Chapters of John
and the
20th Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 23**

The lesson, beginning with paragraph, “**In Bearing The Cross,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

In reference to John 18: 26, we have the following question. What is meant by, “But now is my kingdom not from hence?” The work “hence” means: - From this source or origin; from this time; from this place; from this world or life. Consequently, if Jesus’ Kingdom had been material, He would have accepted the earthly popularity which He had during the second year of His ministry and made Himself King. This is what the disciples thought Jesus would do. This was not a part of Jesus’ plan. As Jesus told the woman at the well, “the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”

Since Pilate found no fault with Jesus, why didn’t he exercise his authority to release Him? Because Pilate was afraid of losing his position. His Roman support was not sufficient to warrant action in Jesus’ defense. He was warned by the Jews that anyone who attempted this was no friend of Caesar. So Pilate washed his hands of the matter, telling the Jews that the responsibility for their action would be upon their heads and the heads of their children.

Pilate must have had conversation with Jesus, not recorded in detail, which gave Pilate a better understanding of what Jesus meant when He told Pilate that His kingdom was not of this earth. Although Pilate desired to release Jesus, and had the power to release Him, Jesus, knowing of His cross, refused to let Pilate

even make the effort. In this we recognize Pilate's position as being that of meeting himself. (Refer John 19: 11-12). Pilate must have found great consolation in the fact that his sin was not as great as the sin of those who delivered Jesus unto him. Possibly Jesus explained to Pilate, "This is just a material thing. Learn your lesson now, for you will have the opportunity to use it."

The first church was in Rome. According to profane history, Pilate did have the opportunity when he was recalled to Rome, to pass on to others this knowledge of Truth with which he had been in contact. After this, there were many Roman soldiers that became Christians. Since there is no record of Pilate returning to Judea, it seems evident that Pilate was responsible for passing on the knowledge of Truth he had gained. History does not credit him with this.

When Jesus asked for water, why was He offered vinegar and hyssop? In those days, vinegar and hyssop (our modern mistletoe) were used to ease pain, or as a narcotic. This was offered to Jesus by those who wished to relieve His suffering, rather than as further torture, as is so often thought. After enduring trials and suffering, for the purpose of overcoming the flesh, it was only natural that He should refuse this last temptation to ease His physical suffering.

How significant to us is Jesus' statement, "I thirst." He was and **IS** the living water to man, yet His last physical desire on this earth was not granted. How truly He exemplified what He taught, that if we would have life, we must give it.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

Minutes of October 31, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Lord Thy God Is One”
and the
20th Chapter of Exodus
Verses 2 through 7**

The lesson, beginning with the, **“Introduction to the last paragraph on page #2”** was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

By analysis we may see how this lesson is the answer to Jesus' last prayer. He prayed that we might see His glory, and that He might have the glory which He had with the Father before the world was. That is the realization of having become one with God, in eternal dwelling with him.

What is meant by a jealous God? Moses, in trying to clarify our conception of God, spoke of Him as a consuming fire. It is simply another way of saying that the Lord is **ONE**. The existence of any other god is an impossible condition and cannot exist. God is one consuming fire, one force, one power. He is the whole law.

Jesus tells us that He did not come to destroy the law nor the prophets, but to fulfill the law. He reminds us that not one jot nor one tittle of the law shall pass until it has been fulfilled. When we break the law we are subject to the natural consequence of being burned by the consuming fire which is the expression of God constantly burning the dross and purifying the one who has broken the law. The word “Jealous” is used in trying to explain to us that God is constantly seeking to draw to Himself His own. There is no room for other gods if we would be with Him.

When we try to put something else first in our life we become confused. This confusion is the result of failure to coordinate the activities of the mind, soul and

body under one spiritual ideal. There is only one source of our supply. When we forget this we become over shadowed with what we consider the **LACK** of material things.

Each tiny corpuscle is a pattern of the universe, having within itself both the positive and negative forces that make up the whole. The corpuscle that goes astray, or takes up with some outside force, causes illness. If there is enough of that plasm we call the leukocyte to strangle this activity, the disease may be checked. Otherwise, the corpuscle that has gone astray may gradually involve the whole of the body. Just so is man an important unit in the whole of the Creator. Our wills respond to the spirit of truth or the spirit of dissension. Man also in God's creation is independent of the law, in the sense that he has free-will and can break a law.

Everything in nature is a manifestation of God. Bacteria or germs are not wrong in themselves, - we have to have them. It is the misapplication of the spirit by man's will that makes what we term wrong.

It was first in spirit that sin came, as Satan or Lucifer, or the Devil (who also, according to Job, was a son of God). Then he persuaded man, through his mind, to partake of the forbidden fruit....the outside force which had gone astray in spirit. Then when man partook, the flesh became heir to it. The first Spirit from which it emanated was God, but the Spirit was misapplied by that small unit which decided to break away. In the same way one of the corpuscles of our body may break away and cause a lot of trouble. Man must become subject to the law and eventually fulfill it, if he would be one with God. This is the law.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of November 7, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Lord Thy God Is One”
and the
8th Chapter of John
Verses 23 through 28**

The lesson, beginning with, “**pages #3 and #4,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

What did Jesus mean by saying “ye shall die in your sins?” Do we not all die in sin” He meant that if those who heard the truth did not believe it, they would die not knowing any better and would have to suffer the consequences. We all suffer the consequences of our sin, but if we know **WHY** we are suffering, it is so much easier. Jesus has shown us **WHY.**

Why did even HE have to learn obedience through suffering, when according to our record of His life He never disobeyed? It is impossible to understand this unless we accept the fact that He was the first God-made man, -- Adam, first Adam -- and consequently had to fulfill the law before he could be perfect again.

Why is it said that death is the last enemy to be overcome? It is what the natural man fears, yet we see nothing in nature that fears it, not even animals. All of nature innately understands that the so-called death is only a rebirth into greater opportunity. Only man does not understand, unless he is quickened by the spirit. Paul said that unless the body dies it **CANNOT** be quickened.

Before the fall of Adam in the flesh, apparently the spirit moved in and out of the body just as we go in and out of a house; or just as a tree apparently dies in the fall but in the spring is re-clothed. All nature accepts this law without question. Man thinks more of the physical than he does of the soul. That's all sin is, - the attempt to obtain the things of the flesh for our own gratification., It was through offering Himself to die that we have been shown the way.

In Jesus' life we see the same temptation presented that was presented to Eve. When He began to relate what was going to happen to Him, Peter rebuked Him and said that such things need not be (just as the serpent said to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die"), but Jesus said "Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art an offense unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." And then He said immediately, "If any **MAN** will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." There are no short cuts. Jesus had to fulfill the law, and so do we. Sooner or later we must recognize that the way He has shown is the **ONLY** way back to the Father.

To those who would not believe, Jesus said, "Whither I go, ye cannot come," - that is, they were not ready, they had not prepared themselves, - they had not taken the first step, which was to believe. Then He said, "When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall ye know." Only when they saw Him nailed on the cross, and the temple veil rent and the sun darkened, did they begin to believe that He was the Son of God. (Matthew, 27: 51)

Who are the chosen people today? Those who seek to do God's will. God is no respecter of persons. The Jews were called the chosen people because Abraham first **CHOSE** to seek and to worship the one living God. All those who continue to do the same are His chosen. We are all called according to His purpose, but so often we fail to respond. Abraham was called, -- he recognized his calling and **CHOSE** to separate himself and seek guidance from God. Hence all those who follow the calling of Abraham, who seek to do God's will, may be termed "chosen." Jesus said, "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister and mother."

We are God's chosen, if we choose Him first and foremost in our lives and act like it.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of November 14, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Lord Thy God Is One”
and the
17th Chapter of John
Verses 9 through 26**

The lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

Jesus brought about a unison between man and God by living the life of complete fulfillment of the law in the material world. There were two extremes manifested. The furthest one from the realization of the Unity with God was the son of perdition. All of those who complied with the law of love, as demonstrated by Jesus, were kept by Him. Jesus reminded His disciples at one time, “Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?” This does not mean that the other disciples did not sin, -- rather that Judas was the only one who willfully and purposely caused dissension. Although the other disciples were tempted and often did not live up to the ideal Jesus had set, none **WILLFULLY PLANNED** to have his own way as Judas did. Because Judas had only the worldly outlook he became representative of Satan, or the Evil Force which from the beginning attempted to break down the real oneness Jesus manifested.

According to the wisdom of the world, Judas felt (as the traditional story goes) that such a thing was best, to bring about a balance of power. There are those today who are reasoning according to man-made power and law, yet they feel that God is with them. We see in Jesus' life the wisdom and promise in fulfilling the divine law of love.

Jesus sanctified Himself for our sake. He went **THROUGH** the trials, and suffering, even the death on the cross, with **THE PURPOSE** that He would show man the way out of sin. There were many people crucified in those days, but for

what purpose? Just to go through a form of ceremony cannot save us; it is the purpose with which we do it that counts.

God's Word Is Truth. His Word Is Law. His Law Is Creative. Everything is constructive in God's law. Only when we attempt to defy the law, or to use it for personal aggrandizement, does it become evil, or sin or untruth. If we can come to the realization that God loves us as He loved Jesus, and act like it, we will come to the knowledge of that glory He had.....that we as individuals had with the Father before the foundation of the world. Not that we don't have trials and tribulations, but we will see and realize that all the things He spoke of are being made manifest.

In the book of St. John we find repeated more of the actual happenings and the spiritual teachings of Jesus. This must be because John was asked by Mary, the mother of Jesus, to repeat the stories so often that they were instilled in his memory. Then, too, the book was written considerably later than the other books, which made it possible to include the spiritual interpretations according to what had come about in the meantime. We have more of the personal references to Jesus in this book than in all the others. This is very natural, considering that John was so closely associated with Mary, Jesus' words to them from the Cross having been, "Woman, behold thy Son," and to John, "'Behold thy mother."

Jesus said, "I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it;" that is, through the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, which will reveal unto us all things.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

Minutes of November 21, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“The Lord Thy God Is One”
and the
17th Chapter of John
Verses 25 and 26
and the
19th Chapter of John
Verses 28 through 30**

The conclusion of the lesson was led by **Mr. *Edgar Cayce***.

Do we know the full law of God as related to Man? We will know it when we have the full concept of Jesus' purpose in coming into materiality. Jesus made it possible for us to be aware of our relationship with the Father. Until His entrance there had not been a full concept of what was required of man.

Sin had entered the world.....the whole thought of man was to do evil. Not that man sought to do evil, but there was the desire of self-expression which had been conceived in the manner in which Satan induced Eve to do that which God had forbidden. Adam was the source and power of contact with God in the material world. He was the perfect man. His companion Eve was made from Adam, --not another creation, as Adam had been; not another creation as the vegetable and animal kingdoms had been.

Consequently, with that desire being gratified, it set in motion a law that must be entirely, purposefully, consciously fulfilled; because God changes not, and He said, “Ye shall surely die.” Then that necessary to be overcome was not only to be accomplished through purposefulness of thought, day, by day, by in being conscious of the results of every act, every word spoken, --which gave the abilities, through doing that, for Him to take up His body, or for death to have no

claim on Him. **IN THAT FACT, IN THAT ACT,** He unites again man with God.

Consequently, we realize that in Him we live, move and have our being. If we would know God we must believe that He is. We must believe He is able to keep His promises. All other relationships in the material may be conditional, but with Him we recognize that the conditions are only with us. **He is able,** He is willing to fulfill His promises to those who diligently seek Him.

What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished." He meant that He had completed all the things He had come to do, --He had fulfilled the law, mentally, physically and materially.

"Ye shall surely die." Did that mean physical or spiritual death? Spiritual death; for in the beginning God said, "Let there be light," --that is, understanding, or awareness of a separation, or the beginning of evolution. Then man partook of the forbidden fruit, and became aware of good and evil, he was 'dead' to the complete spiritual light which he had previously, though he was gradually more and more alive to worldly things. Hence the law must be fulfilled.

Only when Jesus fulfilled the law did man get a glimpse of the meaning of the being one with the father. All of the godly men of old only went part of the way, preaching things they did not live.

What is the promised land? The promised land is the place where we may be at-one with the Father, or know ourselves to be ourselves yet one with the Father. How well this is in keeping with Jesus' last prayer!

Know that **The Lord Thy God Is One!**

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce.*

Minutes of November 28, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Love”
and the
3rd Chapter of John
Verses 11 through 21**

The Introduction of the lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

We seldom hear orthodox ministers preach from this chapter because it is so hard to explain, or to understand. To explain this Bible study we must consider that all phases of life are presented; the theological, the physiological, and even the mystical like of Christ.

The “We” referred to by Jesus is the 11th verse, is the mystical life of Christ throughout the earth. Refer Genesis, 1: 26, for a verse that has the same significance.

Verses 14 and 15 explain the attitude man should have towards a crucified Christ, the figure he represents. From the beginning the serpent has been the symbol of the mind. When the children of Israel were bitten by a serpent (subject to the willfulness of their minds) it became necessary for them to look upon the serpent of brass to receive understanding that would give them life. Jesus explains here that in the same manner He is to be lifted up, so that all who look on Him and believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Just to say we believe in Him is not enough; -- it must be living, breathing, **ACTING** belief within us. (Refer to Matthew 7:21.and John 3:16.) This is repeated by Christians so often that we have come to say it without realizing the true meaning. Jesus himself said these words. Although He chose to come into the world, He gives God the credit. We, too, should give God the credit for the good we do, for only good can come from the source of all good, which is God.

Jesus said (John 13:34) “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.” This is the only experience in our lives that is continually new. God so loved the ability to express that He has given us the opportunity to be aware of ourselves, -- we can only do it though love, as He did in giving us that opportunity,.

In verses 17 through 21 we are shown that no one has the right to condemn another – not even the church – since Jesus Himself did not come into the world for that purpose. As Jesus explains here, the condemnation was already existent, - - from the very first cause, the first movement, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1: 3); for the spiritual blindness existed from that first separation until the time when Jesus returned to the Father, perfected in Christ. Jesus said, (John 15: 22) “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin.” – that is, the way has been made plain, and God’s law has been fulfilled.

If Jesus had to meet sin, and be crucified for our sins, how can we Christians feel that we can get rid our sins without having to **DO** anything? The thought that we only have to say we believe, and join the church, to be saved has caused a lot of lazy Christians. Can we be better than our Lord? Will more mercy be shown us than was shown the Son? Being a true Christian (living like Christ) is not easy; although it is easy for us to accept the blessings of present day Christianity and say, “We are Christians.....we don’t do such things in this country.” If we do not, as a body of Christians, begin to **LIVE** the law of love which He proclaimed and lived, instead of just talking about it and leaning upon past laurels as it were, we will find ourselves suffering the torments of those who have not accepted Christianity. We will be like the Church of Ephesus to which Christ’s message came (Rev. 2: 4), “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” Or we may be like the church of Laodices to which the message came (Revelation 3: 15 - 16), “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.”

The meeting was closed with prayer by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

Minutes of December 5, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Love”
and the
3rd Chapter of John
Verse 16
and the
19th Psalm
Verses 1 through 7**

The paragraphs, “**Love Manifested**” and “**The Power of Love,**” of the lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

The **7th verse**, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” is the test of our lesson, **LOVE MANIFESTED.**

The other six verses give a description of God’s glory manifested to man. All nature constantly reminds us that God’s law is perfect, and that the manifestation of His law to man is **LOVE.** Everything in the earth stands as a testimony of His law. His love manifested to man; for everything in the earth was made for the convenience of man. In the abuse of it man has erred, he has broken the law of love.

When man uses the manifestations in the earth for the glory of God, he is fulfilling the law of love, being a co-worker with God in manifesting love, becoming one with God. **LAW IS LOVE, LOVE IS LAW.** We only see law as love when we have fulfilled it. When we have taken God’s law (of love, glory and beauty) and used it according to our **OWN** will, we have come under the law, or subject to the law of cause and effect. In God’s law the cause is love, the effect is love. If we abuse that law, then the cause and effect in our experience is turmoil. To have or to recognize perfect love, we must fulfill the law of love; as Jesus did, making Himself one with love, so that no fault could be found in Him.

We can be sure that perfect love can never be ours until we have reached the stage.....in the fulfilling of God's law.....that the soul is completely converted. We are each day in the process of being converted to the love of God through giving His only Son for our redemption. Whatever abuse of the law we may have caused, we are given the opportunity to right. We may overcome the evil we have created by creating good. It is the law. The fulfilling of the law in our own experience is love. In so far as we have fulfilled or righted the law we have broken, we have love.....we manifest love.

Through the giving of His only begotten Son, God's law became a law of grace and mercy in our experience. It is only through manifesting love, then, that we can know the law, or **BE** the law.

Jesus Christ manifested perfect love; He lost Himself in God, in making His will one with God. Thus, God is **LOVE**. Unfulfilled, or misapplied in us, the law of God may be the reaping of those things which seem anything else but lovely; but fulfilled, applied according to His Will, even the most despicable experience in our lives may become a thing of beauty.

This is the manner in which God's law applies to each individual soul, - it is the law of the Lord, a process for converting the soul.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of December 12, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Love”
and the
51st Psalm
Verses 1 through 10**

The paragraph of the lesson beginning, **“Test of Love.....to Love that passes Understanding,”** was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

This Psalm show the test of God's love. It is said that David was guilty of all the sins. Yet, because of his attitude, his belief in the righteousness and mercy of God, he was considered as a man after God's own heart.

David had many weaknesses, just as we have. In seeking to justify ourselves, we might turn to David as an example; yet if we do, we should go the whole way and be in the same repentant attitude.

We are told that David was a man after God's own heart. No doubt we wonder why this was true when he committed so many sins. In studying his life, we will find that he suffered most from conditions which arose in his own household, in the attempt to manifest some phase of love.

How is it, then, that David was a man after God's own heart? While he was a great sinner, he was also a great repentor. We find that he was never guilty of committing the same sin twice. He always repented and found new ways to manifest an appreciation of God's love. In many of the Psalms we find him pouring out his soul in repentance, and calling on God for mercy and forgiveness.

We cannot claim or possess God's love, mercy and forgiveness unless through our belief in Him, we are prompted to live up to our belief. Our blessings are

measured by the extent this rule is applied. This is a result of the law of love. In this manner we have the opportunity to be God's emissaries.

We are not called upon nor expected to do anything about conditions or situations, except in so far as we are concerned. We are only responsible for our actions or reactions concerning conditions, experiences, which come to us individually, - for these are the things we are reaping according to what we have sown. Our reactions to such conditions shows what manner of love we have for God and our fellow man.

It should be a constant source of encouragement to us, to know that Jesus Christ takes us where we are **TODAY**. We are to fulfill the law of love in our own little niche, in whatever place we find ourselves, - remembering that no one is in authority or power except it has been given him by the Father.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Minutes of December 19, 1939.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Love”
and the
14th Chapter of John
Verses 25 through 31**

The paragraph of the lesson beginning, “**Love that Passes Understanding**” to “**Conclusion,**” was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce.**

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus explained to the disciples the purpose for which He had come. With the realization that the time had come when this purpose was to be fulfilled, He further explained that He, Himself, must stand the final test of being crucified. At this last meeting He made the promise which may only be understood by those who have sought to know the will of the Father, - the promise of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit.

There's a great difference in Spirit and Holy Spirit. We know that there is only One Spirit, - but there are various manifestations of Spirit. Some manifestations of Spirit are the result of God's force, - God's love, misdirected by man. The **HOLY SPIRIT** is that which is entirely free from censure of blame, or any influence that would make one afraid.

Spirit, as we understand, is the motivative force, the impulse that only emanates from God's movement which began it. His creatures, or the creation which came into being through that movement, brought about influences...or manifestations... which Jesus refers to here as the prince of this world has nothing in us, we then know that we abide in the Christ-Consciousness, - which is the love that passes understanding; that Jesus, the man, so lived in a material world that the Christ-Consciousness was fully exemplified, fully manifested in Him.

The prince of this world, or Spirit misdirected, is manifested in those who choose rather to exalt self-power, without giving God the credit....or without recognizing that God's power is supreme.

Jesus' way or manner of exemplifying God's power is simple. Because His example is so simple, we often become confused in our search for truth. The way is hard, compared with doing what we would like to do....or what we are impelled to do from the 'Prince of the world' standpoint. It is hard if we try to live up to the standards Jesus set. So few of us can comprehend the spirit of turning the other cheek. It is so easy, so humanly natural....from the material standards.... To fight back. Living up to His standards only becomes easy when we constantly meditate and seek guidance from Him. Then we understand.

So many of His beautiful sayings, as well as these lessons we are studying, may be to us just a lot of words, unless we have actually applied some of His principles of love and experienced the results in our own life.

The meeting was closed with prayer by *Mr. Edgar Cayce*.

Note: Next meeting to be held January 2, 1940.

Minutes of January 2, 1940.

**Bible Study Paralleling
Search For God I Study Group Lesson
on
“Love”
and the
15th Chapter of John
Verses 1 through 12**

The Conclusion of the lesson was led by **Mr. Edgar Cayce**.

In the 14th Chapter of John, we are given possibly the Masters last words while sitting at the table, for the chapter ends with “Arise, let us go hence.”

The walk to the garden begins in the next chapter. It has been given through certain sources that they sang the 91st Psalm, and that Jesus played the harp, laughed and joked with His disciples to the very last.

Then we have His last prayer. He prayed that His disciples should not be taken out of the world, but rather that they be given the strength to overcome the world.

When Jesus said, “Ye are clean,” He did not mean to indicate that His disciples were beyond committing any wrong. Shortly after Jesus said this, Peter attempted to defend Him by cutting off the Roman soldier’s ear. Jesus reproved Peter for doing this and healed the soldier. Then He must have meant that they were clean from deliberate sin.

Praying for the strength to overcome the temptation of doing things we know to be wrong must be the true meaning of “Lead us not into temptation.” Knowing that we will be forgiven should not be used as an excuse for doing things which our conscience tells us is wrong. Such an attitude of “cheating” is never worth while materially or spiritually, for sooner or later we reap what we have sown.

The very fact that we have heartaches, disappointments and failures is a proof of God's law (love) attempting to save us. It has been given that those whom the Lord loves He chastens. This is another way of saying that only those who can withstand the temptations and trials are able to overcome the prince of this world, - which is the spirit constantly seeking its own gratification. Those who seek God's glorification instead of their own are those who can smile through their tears and push onward as a Christian soldier. It is only in this manner that we come to know God.

If we study to show ourselves approved, through self analysis, we will find the answer within as to what God would have us do under most any circumstance that might arise in our daily experience.

We must be prepared to go through the fiery furnace if necessary, as Daniel did; or to live through affliction as Job did; or to sacrifice ourselves completely as Jesus did, - but for God's purpose and not our own. This way we will have love, - which is the fulfillment of God's law.

The meeting was closed with prayer by ***Mr. Edgar Cayce.***