

These Things and Greater Ye Too, Shall Do

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Gracious God, Bless now the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts. Breath Your Spirit into us and grant that we may hear and in hearing be led in the way You want us to go. Amen.

What is mine to do this day? What if I were to tell you that with the touch of your hands you could compel a blind man to see, you might cultivate a cure for cancer? World peace would be a reality because the love radiating from your heart would bring nothing less to life. That with your intentional thought you could change the constitution of water into wine? Now who wouldn't like to know how to do that?

Don't take my word for it! It was Jesus, our Master/Teacher, our Christ on earth who said, and I quote from the Lamsa's Aramaic translation of The Holy Bible, John, Chapter 14:12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me shall do the works which I do; and even greater than these things he shall do, because I am going to my Father."

Even greater than these things he shall do. What potential! What responsibility! And yet there is a condition: "He who believes in me shall do the work which I do." So, we must believe in Him.

Krishna speaks in *The Bhagavad-Gita*, "Now listen. The faith of each individual corresponds to his temperament. A man consists of

the faith that is in him. Whatever his faith is, he is." What's the saying? "As a man thinks...(so shall he be)?"

Jesus gives clear instruction in *The Aquarian Gospel* Chapter 161, "And Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life; I manifest the Christ of God. No man can reach my Fatherland except he comes with me through Christ. Lo, I have told you many times that what I speak and what I do are not the words and works of man; They are the words and works of God, who lives in me and I in him. Hear me, you faithful men: He who believes in me and in my Father, God, shall say and do what I have said and done. Yea, more, he shall do greater works than I have ever done, because I go to him whose works we do, and then I can reach forth my hand in helpfulness. I am the vine; you are the branches of the vine; my Father is the husbandman."

Some people hesitate having a relationship with Christ due to this prerequisite of belief. One can only enjoy the gifts of the Spirit when willing to identify with Christ through His life, His death, His burial, and His resurrection. White Eagle speaks in the book *The Light Bringer*, "With the blending of soul and spirit the perfect being is born, the one who is capable of taking the Christ initiation, capable of crucifying the lower self, crucifying matter, who is dispensing with the lower form of matter."

Meister Eckhart teaches, "To get into the core of God at his greatest, one must first get into the core of himself at his least, for no one can know God who has not first known himself."

Ponder on this...What is belief? Reverend Paul Fritz of Trinity College illuminates the "Eight Stages of Faith or Belief."

The First Stage is Basic Trust, a firm belief in the reliability of God and the truth of His word. Just as a child learns to implicitly trust it's mother, so we as a young soul rely on our God - Parents for feeding, protection, and guidance.

In The First Epistle of Peter, Chapter 2:2: "And become like newborn babes, and long for the word as for pure and spiritual milk, that you may grow to salvation by it..." Salvation...ummm?

Reverend Carol Parrish in her *New Dictionary Of Spiritual Thought* defines Salvation as, "Enlightenment. Mastery of one's spirit awakening Godhood. The Self-within illumines life with the light of spirit (Monad). The saving or reigning of oneself from the power of the non-self. From the latin word *salvus* meaning safe."

The Second Stage of Faith or Belief is Confidence, developing a firm reliance on the certainty of God's grace, counsel, and enabling. In The First Epistle of John Chapter 4:17, I hear the grace of confidence, "Herein is His love made perfect in us, so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."

The Third Stage of Faith or Belief is Innovation, knowing one's value in their relationship with Father-Mother God frees an initiate's ideas, services, and love. The Apostle Paul speaking to Timothy in The Second Epistle, Chapter 1:7, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of good discipline," God trust me. Father-Mother God trusts me to do the work of what is mine to do this day. I don't know about you. For me it's one thing if I trust me, it is that much more when another trusts me. I'm up here, in the pulpit, aren't I? And I thank you for your trust.

From *The Light Bringer* White Eagle states, "When you become a transparent channel through which the divine light of the Father-Mother God flows, then you become the perfect healer of individuals; and individuals, remember, make up a nation, and nations a world."

The Fourth Stage is that of Productivity. The deeper one's belief, the greater capacity I as an individual have to generate the spiritual virtues of Agni Yoga: Enthusiasm, Beauty, Universality, Leadership, Love, Purity, Reverence, Transformation, Harmlessness,

Fearlessness, Humility, and Joy. The Virtues of Agni Yoga lead toward the productivity of humanity's healing.

Rev. Carol Parrish instructs in *Adventures In Meditation, Volume III*, Lesson 6, "When personality acquiesces to the purposes of the higher nature, we experience humility. In deep humility, we bow to higher will."

The Living Bible's translation of this understanding is found in The Second Epistle of Timothy, Chapter 3:17, "It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

In my daily thoughts and prayers I refer to Father-Mother God as my God-Parents. It is the way of a loving parent to prepare us to be fully equipped to do good in the world. I will never forget my own father's words the night of my brain tumor diagnosis, "You will have the best in the best environment." He believed the God work could be done. The deeper I understand that truth the more in contact I come with the knowledge and the wisdom that we have always been equipped to do the work.

Speaking of making contact, the Fifth Stage of Faith or Belief is Integration. As we grow closer to rising up, living as the Spiritual Self we already are, we are able to integrate our beliefs in truth with the realities of our world.

From *The New International Bible* in Colossians, Chapter 2: 2 - 3, "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

There it is! Complete understanding, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. "...He who believes in me shall do the works..." Breathe into and integrate that!!!

Now, the Sixth Stage of Faith or Belief is that of Friendly Intimacy With Others. Greater faith guides us toward greater love for one another.

Paul probably did not know he was writing wedding vows in his First Epistle of Corinthians, Chapter 13: 4-7, yet if we step aside from the last time we heard these words shared during the intimacy of a wedding, bringing them into every relationship we have, there is the understanding of friendly intimacy with others.

"Love is long suffering and kind; love does not envy; love does not make a vain display of itself, and does not boast, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not over iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

These things and greater, if we just love. Christ teaches us to love. Love leads us to belief. Belief leads us to action, which leads us back to love. Bottom-line, it is as the Beatles sing, "All you need is love." What are the teachings of Jesus if not essentially this?

As White Eagle declares in *The Light Bringer*, "The Master Jesus is also the Master at the head of the Sixth Ray, that of the higher mind, of philosophy and healing, and of the philosophy of love."

Creativity is our Seventh Stage of Faith or Belief. As we reproduce who we truly are as a Christed One, we are likely to birth original ideas, invent new programs, services, and activities for the betterment of all humankind. Creativity, the God force, has its purpose.

As we pray in The Great Invocation, "From the center where the will of God is known, let purpose guide all little human wills. The purpose, which the Masters know and serve... through me."

Translated from the *Living Bible*, in The Second Epistle of Peter, Chapter 1:3, "For as you know Him better, He will give you,

through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life..."

"For as you know Him better..." "...no man comes to my Father except by me." "...He will give you everything you need..." "and even greater than these things ye shall do..."

Creativity, the force of God is within me, if I get to know Him, Christ, better.

Words from *The Light Bringer*, "Love God faithfully, and this light waxes and becomes brighter. By the power of this light miracles can be wrought, healings are performed, and all the spiritual beauty of human life is revealed."

And our Eighth and final Stage of Faith or Belief is Christlikeness. Many of you are familiar with Torkom Saraydarian's *Suggested Prayers and Practice For the Discipline of a Holy Life*. Their purpose is to aid our transformation as sons and daughters of God, as Christ is the Son, our Spiritual Brother, our Guide, our Master-Teacher. Each prayer reminds us of our connected Christlikeness during the day. Remember the noon prayer; "The flame of the Great Presence in me, let me stand as a radiant fire of righteousness today and during the days of my life. Let me think, act and speak in the spirit of righteousness."

Every time I make the effort to stop for just a moment to say one of the five daily prayers, I do feel that heartstring into and responsibility of my Christlikeness.

Reading further into Saint John's Chapter 14:20, we get the full circle connection, "In that day you will know that I am with my Father, and you are with me, and I am with you."

Knowing that no work will be effective without cooperation from the Soul, I can hear the Christ within us chanting, "I am the Soul. I am the Light Divine. I am Love. I am Will. I am Fixed Design."

Torkom Saraydarian in his book, *Christ The Avatar Of Sacrificial Love*, says, "Everyone in the Universe is created by the

Great Life and lives, moves, and breathes within Him as one of His Sparks. Jesus always emphasized this, as when he said: "I am the Son of man. I go to my Father and to your Father. Greater things will you do." By such expressions Jesus revealed His true manhood and opened the path to divinity. To know that He is a man who has reached such heights of achievement is the greatest inspiration for a human being. What he did as a man, we can do!"

From *The Bhagavad-Gita* we learn, "When action is done in this spirit, Krishna teaches, it will lead us to the knowledge of what is behind action, behind all life: the ultimate Reality. We shall realize our true nature, which is God."

All of us were born with unique gifts and talents. Each of us has something we can do better than anyone else in the world.

"The light which is generated by any of you during the course of your spiritual unfoldment is a very real and tangible thing. It radiates from every pupil who unfolds their inner gifts, and it really penetrates the soul of another. It is a very sacred power to be used with delicacy and discernment," so speaks White Eagle.

"These things and greater ye too shall do." For some of us our "These things and greater" may not be public; they may be apparent only to those people within our intimate circles. Yet, if we try to convince ourselves that either we don't possess any gifts or we possess gifts we don't really have, we end up being unable to effectively use the talents we do have. We can ask God to help us strip away the mask of self-deceit as we grow in spiritual wisdom, analyzing our gifts and talents honestly and realistically, our greatest strengths, our greatest weaknesses.

One way to do that is through Seed Thought Meditation. As Rev. Parrish states in *The Book Of Rituals*, "Seed thought work transforms the child of God, receptive to the love, will and mind of God, into a co-worker with God, who begins to know, comprehend, serve or intuit how to participate in the will of God."

In *The Light Bringer*, White Eagle suggests, "Strive to respond to beauty, and strive to feel love towards life. Let your heart be always in tune with the Infinite Love. If you can live in this manner; you will be living your meditation. You will be continually meditating upon that love which is the light, and to follow that light is the way to freedom from all limitations of the flesh. This is how the masters perform their miracles. They become saintlike in life. They dwell continually upon the thought of God, the purity of God, the love of God." "Not my will but Thy will be done." "These things and greater ye too shall do."

There is a reference to this very chapter of John in White Eagle's *The Light Bringer*, "An earnest study of the message of John reveals to those with understanding that the things he taught concerned the power of the soul...when men and women will learn to use the full power of the soul, by reason of knowledge concerning each and all the vehicles comprising that temple which is the human being...In the new age, religion will come from the heart and every one of you will learn to unfold your own God-qualities and God-powers. Until you have unfolded these qualities you cannot be entrusted with the greater knowledge. Hence the teaching of the master Jesus, which was so clear, so emphatic, and which the world still ignores: Love one another. Until each of you can love your neighbor, you cannot receive the wisdom of the gods."

Often in life when we are mindfully present we are aware of encountering graceful gifts of Aha moments during "These things and greater" times. When we return from the Aha's we humans always have questions.

"Through Your Hands" a song by David Crosby tickles the mind and heart when answers are revealed between what you know and where faith and belief rise up. "You were dreaming on a park bench About a broad highway somewhere When the music from the carillon Seemed to hurl your heart out there Past the scientific

darkness Past the fireflies that float To an angel bending down To wrap you in her warmest cloak. And you ask 'What am I not doing?' She says, 'Your voice cannot command' She says, 'In time you will move mountains And it will come through your hands.'

Still you angle for an option Still you argue for your case Like you wouldn't know a burning bush Till it blew up in your face. We dream about the future. We memorize the past.

When just a simple reaching out Could build a bridge that lasts And you ask 'What am I not doing?' She says, 'Your voice cannot command,' She says, 'In time you will move mountains And it will come through your hands.' So whatever your hands find to do You must do with all your heart There are thoughts enough to blow men's minds And tear great worlds apart There's a healing touch to find you Out on that broad highway somewhere Gonna lift you as high as music Running through an angel's hair And don't worry What you are not doing 'Cause your voice cannot command And in time you will move mountains And it will come through your hands.'"

"These things and greater ye too shall do." "He who believes in me...Believe in Him" and "These things and greater ye too shall do." Blessed be God, day by day. Amen.