

## "YOUR CREATIVE MIND"

by L. L. DUNNINGTON  
Pastor, First Methodist Church, Iowa City, Iowa

The religious world is and has been hopelessly divided ever since the dawn of history. Yet the one imperative, desperate need of mankind is a unified, clear, inspiring conception of the God-Power which each religious group sees fragmentarily and vaguely. For that vision the world waits with bated breath, the while we plunge slowly but surely on toward probable doom in an atomic war.

Dr. Marcus Bach of the School of Religion of the State University of Iowa, has recently published "They Have Found a Faith." It is receiving wide acclaim across the nation because, after years of personal investigation into the beliefs of America's little known religious sects, he selected eight for his book and found that they all had some real segment of God's eternal truth that was beneficially influencing the lives of their followers. Jehovah's Witnesses, The Four Square Gospel, Spiritualism, The Bahai Faith, Unity and Psychiana were all examined. He journeyed to their headquarters and talked with their leaders. He read their literature and listened to the testimony of their followers.

Idiosyncrasies he found in plenty. Impossible tenets and beliefs he found in profusion. But they all had enough of God's eternal truth in one form or another to command the whole-hearted allegiance of large numbers of intelligent Americans.

Dr. Bach is continuing his search and will publish other books. If he should succeed in covering all of the nearly three hundred denominations and sects in the nation, it is my belief that his basic conclusion will not be greatly altered. They all have something!

But why can we not get together in some blessed unity that is basic, leaving men to differ as they will on certain details and interpretations? Why cannot we Christians do just that among ourselves? If we could recover the simple, loving, dynamic and radiant Jesus from centuries-old theological encrustations that have engulfed him, there would be released through us enough of the same God-Power that he used, to build a peaceful paradise right here on earth in this generation! Nothing could stop it! And the atomic war that already threatens to destroy the whole earth would fold up its tents like the Arabs and as silently steal away!

I believe with all my soul that it can be done. I believe that it will be done! Last evening I saw a demonstration of the creative power of mind that leaves me breathless with its overwhelming implications. There was nothing new revealed there; nothing that mankind has not known before. But the meaning of what I saw is so packed with spiritual dynamite that it could blow our bafflements and frustrations and possible impending doom right out of our troubled world.

First of all let us have a brief look at these minds of ours. Those of you who have read my three books, "Handles of Power", "More Handles of Power", and "Start Where You Are" will recall that each of them has a chapter on this theme and that those books are all built around this main concept.

Our minds are said to be similar to the icebergs that float in the ocean. The one-tenth of the iceberg that is visible above the water represents the conscious mind. The nine-tenths that is invisible below the surface may be compared to the deep well of the unconscious mind. With the conscious mind we reason and judge and choose accepting or rejecting what seems good or bad, desirable or undesirable as the case may be. And *what our reasoned judgment dwells upon passes from the conscious to the unconscious mind and becomes a part of us.*

Mind is therefore creative. *Every single thought creates.* We were made in the image of the creative God. If we train ourselves to dwell upon what is true and good and beautiful, if we have the single eye of faith, hope and love, these characteristics will flavor and dominate the unconscious and result in happy, poised, integrated personalities. But if we allow thoughts of discontent, anger, envy, fear, jealousy and hatred to occupy a large proportion of our waking hours, we will become weak, sour, fearridden, diseased souls that everyone shuns.

"As a man thinketh in his heart (unconscious mind) so is he." Jesus said, "A good man out of the treasure he has accumulated in his heart, produces good and a bad man, out of what he has accumulated that is bad, produces what is bad. For his mouth says what his heart is full of." (Luke 6:43, 45—Goodspeed).

Last evening I caught a glimpse of the life-transforming meaning of Jesus' words. A graduate student here in the university has long been a careful and practicing student of the phenomena of hypnosis. When a man is hypnotized, his conscious mind ceases to function as he falls into a deep sleep while his unconscious mind ever remains alert and receptive, *receiving uncritically whatever suggestions are made to it*. The one exception to this statement is the fact that no one under hypnosis can be made to act upon a suggestion that runs counter to his basic moral code.

One of our undergraduate students who intends to enter the ministry and who is greatly interested in this subject, agreed to be the guinea pig. Mr. M., the hypnotist, had him sitting comfortably in an easy chair with his eyes concentrated upon the metal end of a light cord that hung from the ceiling. He said: "Don, you are utterly relaxed and about to fall into a deep, deep sleep. My voice is soothing and commanding and you believe me when I tell you that your eyelids are growing heavy, that your muscles are relaxed and that, step by step, you are falling, falling, falling into a deep, deep sleep." At the end of ten minutes he was indeed asleep.

Then Mr. M. addressed himself directly to Don's unconscious and very receptive mind. "I am going to count to three in a few minutes and when I do so, you will instantly awaken," said M, "but there will be one thing different. It will be this: After you have been awake awhile, I shall say Yankee Doodle three times in succession and you will then fall instantly back into a deep sleep." Sure enough, on the count of three, Don awakened. We talked awhile and then, on completion of three Yankee Doodles, he went out again like a light.

Then Mr. M. gave him another post-hypnotic suggestion. "I shall again awaken you with a count of three," he said, "but one thing will be different. I am taking the letter 'e' out of your life until tomorrow morning at 9 A.M. You will not be able to spell a word correctly that contains the letter e—not even your own name. You will not know that here ever was such a letter in the alphabet. No amount of explanation will help in the slightest. The letter 'e' will be completely non-existent until 9 A.M. tomorrow when it will suddenly be back again in its accustomed place. One, two, three."

Don came wide awake and dazedly looked around. "Spell Charles," said one of our group. Charles is his middle name. "Charls" is what he spelled out. "Spell eight" said another. He couldn't. "Spell eggs." Said Don, "g-g-s." One of us got the telephone book and turned to the As, Bs, Cs, and Ds in succession. He knew them well. But when we pointed to the big E at the head of the Es he went blank. He had no idea what it was.

This morning at 8:30 Don came to the parsonage on an errand. I picked up a box of grape-nuts from the kitchen table and asked him to spell grape, reading the letters from the box. He said, "g-r-a-p." I asked him to spell the word "breakfast" from the box, but he left the "e" out. I pointed to the big E and asked if he knew that was an E. He did not even know what I was talking about. "You will, though, in just thirty minutes," I told him.

At eleven o'clock I saw him again and he was all smiles. He had been taking notes in psychology class from 8:30 to 9:30 and keeping a weather eye on his wrist watch. "At 9:02" said Don, "I looked at the notes I had written and was startled to find not a single 'e' in any word. I promptly went over my work and put in the missing letters." He could not remember struggling with the Es; they had dropped out of his life for a few hours as completely as though the alphabet had never contained such a letter.

Do you see the amazing significance of what we have been saying? The same unconscious mind that uncritically accepted the supposed fact that there was no "e" in the alphabet is the same unconscious mind that accepts without question whatsoever the conscious mind dwells upon.

No wonder our Catholic friends say "Give us a child for the first seven years and

you may have him after that." Those are the years in which both conscious and unconscious minds are uncritical. Emotionally condition him with any concept under the shining sun and he is apt to keep it for life.

Tell a child that he has inherited Original Sin from Adam; that he is, therefore, destined for a literal flaming hell unless he believes what the church teaches; that Christ may come riding in on the clouds of heaven any day now and put an end to life on this earth; that he must believe in the Trinity and the Virgin Birth or go to hell; that God keeps meticulous records of every action and will catch up with him at the Bar of Judgment; tell him all of this and more and then stop wondering why Christianity has ceased to be the radiant world-changing thing that it was in the first few centuries after Christ.

Or let a spellbinder become obsessed with some one facet of truth to the exclusion of the rest of Christ's teaching and turn that man loose in any community on earth and he will have a lot of followers in a very short time; followers who would die for their beliefs.

We are dealing here with that atomic power of spirit; a power so vast as to stagger any active imagination; a power that can be used for good or ill. It is the power that lay back of all the mighty works Jesus did. Again and again he said, "Have faith—only believe." Jesus knew that what the conscious mind dwells upon sinks into the "heart" or unconscious mind and that a man who has his mind fixed on the love, radiance, serenity and understanding of God comes to possess those qualities in his own "heart." Healings of body, mind and affairs, according to divine law, follow naturally in any life that has a single eye for truth, beauty and goodness.

Jesus never mentioned the Virgin Birth, the "infallible" Scriptures, the Substitutionary Atonement, the Fall of Man, the Trinity—and yet the church that calls itself the Christian church, whether Catholic or Protestant, has fought, bled, hated, and died from the second century of the Christian era until now, in a supposed defense of these doctrines. The unconscious minds of untold millions of Jesus' followers have been filled so full of fear and worry over salvation and so full of hatred for those who differed from them that they have had left very little of Jesus' radiance or power.

Although we shall have a chapter on the Trinity later, let us stop long enough to take a brief look at The Athanasian Creed—the official creed of the Roman Catholic Church—their pronouncement on the Trinity which Jesus never mentioned:

"Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith: Which faith, except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt *he shall perish everlastingly*. And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost; the Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, the Holy Ghost uncreate; the Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, the Holy Ghost incomprehensible; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal; and yet they are not three eternals but one eternal; as also there are not three uncreated, nor three incomprehensibles, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet there are not three Almighties, but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God, the Holy Ghost is God. And yet there are not three Gods, but one God . . . So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. *He therefore that will be saved, must thus think of the Trinity . . .*"

That, dear friends, is one church's official explanation of who Jesus was—the Jesus who said, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God." (Mk. 10:18). Jesus was evidently aware of the perils involved in worshipping him instead of God. The church succumbed to that very peril inside of two centuries. Over this doctrine of the Trinity, civil war broke out again and again. Churches were filled with

the dead and the most ingenious engines of torture ever devised by the mind of man were used for centuries to insure orthodoxy and hence "salvation."

One can even understand why Dr. Frank B. Robinson, founder of Psychiana, called a moratorium on all theology that concerned Christ or the Bible and built a series of simple lessons that centered largely in one powerful affirmation: "I believe in the power of the living God." He went too far, in my opinion, but millions of simple and soul hungry and unchurched Americans have followed his lessons and found new strength and life which they failed to find in theologically centered Christianity. I have spent hours with this man and I believe him to be a simple, honest, God-empowered individual in spite of the extremes to which he has gone in his attempt to free the living, pulsing, healing power of Almighty God from the enervating and disputatious theology of "orthodox" Christianity.

Jesus had one central, dynamic, life changing message: "*The Kingdom of God is within you!*" Luke 17:21). Parable after parable centers around this concept of the atomic power of spirit that is within, awaiting release through faith. Sit down and read the thirteenth chapter of Matthew without stopping. Note the *action* needed on your part and mine if we are to appropriate this Kingdom of heaven. It is no passive thing. It is up to us to *take* it through the creative power of mind centered on God. "The Kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which *sowed* good seed in his field" (unconscious mind); "The Kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man *took* . . ." Here is this eternal principle of growth and unfoldment. "The Kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman *took* . . ." "The Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure *hid* in a field; the which when a man hath *found*, he hideth, and for joy thereof *goeth* and *selleth* all that he hath, and *buyeth* that field." Do you see the *action* involved? "The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was *cast* into the sea and *gathered* of every kind, which, when it was full, they *drew* to shore . . ."

And what is the Kingdom of Heaven? It is the Kingdom of Right Relationships among men based on Jesus' final commandment of love for God and man. "He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is Love." (I John 4:8). The hatred and estrangements engendered by non-essential theological disputations is the great destroyer of love and right relations among men. Fill the "heart" or the unconscious mind with love and all else comes right.

What, then, is the conclusion of the matter? Simply this: We shall try to clear away the beclouding, suffocating, insufferable load of theological impedimenta with which the church has covered the simple, radiant, God-empowered Jesus through the centuries. If we ourselves and the whole world of baffled, beaten, struggling humanity are to save our world from destruction in an atomic armageddon, we must go into *action* to *recover* and *use* the atomic power of the Spirit of the Living God. We must *affirm* and *believe* and *demonstrate* this Power every moment of every day.

The unconscious mind will accept what our conscious minds dwell upon and will go to work to *make our affirmations come true in the fields of body, mind and affairs*. God gave us creative minds to use, to make reasoned judgments, to accept the good and to reject the bad. "When anyone heareth the word of the Kingdom" said Jesus, "and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart (unconscious mind)." (Matt. 13:19). The Church has heard Jesus' message of the Kingdom of heaven but they have understood it not. They have quarreled over the *giver* of the message until they have lost the meaning and life giving power of the message itself.

Good friends, it is later than we think—much later. But there is still time to bring in the Kingdom of heaven here and now, on this earth, if we will. Each of us must begin now, in his own heart and life, to live this power-releasing affirmation: "*I believe in the Power of the Living God.*" And this: "*The Kingdom of God is within me.*" Sink them deep into the unconscious mind with the piledriver of absolute confidence and faith. Live with those affirmations, sleep with them, never let them go!