

# "PSYCHIANA"

(THE TEACHING WHICH IS BRINGING NEW LIFE TO A SPIRITUALLY DEAD WORLD)

## LESSON NO. 3

BY

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### WHO AND WHAT GOD ACTUALLY IS

In this Lesson we shall go a little farther into the very profound truths we are studying. Let me repeat to my students that we are here dealing with the most fundamental truths we have ever dealt with. In no other age but this would it have been possible for a set of lessons like this to have been written, or for a man or woman like you to have the ability to receive and understand this teaching and some of the marvelous truths it deals with. We are not studying a fairy story by any manner of means. We are studying the STORY OF THIS WORLD--ITS GOD--AND THE MOST MARVELOUS CREATION THIS GOD EVER MADE--MAN. If you have carried out my instructions faithfully up to this point, you are beginning to get an insight into the great spiritual truth as it exists. If you are NOT doing these things then please start all over again and this time DO THEM.

These lessons are doubtless interesting from a literary standpoint, but that standpoint will not get you to first base in these studies. However,--Those who WANT the truth will just naturally do as I instruct them, and they will find it. This lesson may well be called the most profound of the entire course--as it deals with GOD Himself. I realize the utter impossibility of doing it the justice I should like to. But I also realize this fact, that unless a man could have followed me all these past years, in my search after the Living God, he could by no manner of means have the insight into the matter that has rewarded my efforts. Please remember that I am only a human being--just like you are--and with probably just as many failings as you have. ~~as you have, it is more~~ So please follow me closely, and bear with me if my efforts seem to fall short of dealing with this dynamic subject as you would like to have it dealt with.



I have this one satisfaction--and it is a big satisfaction at that--I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am giving the very best that is in me, with what talent may have been given to me, and I am endeavoring to pass along to you these mighty truths as I have received them. They come direct to me from the Source of all truth, and therefore, in essence, THEY CANNOT BE WRONG--THEY MUST BE THE TRUTH. Were I dependent on what any other man has written, or upon what I have heard then the element of doubt as to the truth of these statements would be very pertinent. As it is--IT CANNOT ENTER INTO THEM. Before you go any farther with this mighty Lesson, if you are not already in a quiet, restful mood--please get into just such a mood. Concentrate on the lesson to the exclusion of all other thoughts, and arrange so that you will not be interrupted while studying it. I also suggest that you read this lesson three times in succession--it will pay you to do so.

And now let us go to the actual study of this mighty unchangeable, immutable, all-powerful, never-changing God of ours. And let me say to you here, that the Living God, as I shall reveal Him to you, will, in all probability, be a far different God from what you have imagined Him to be to date. As you progress, however, you will find that you are accepting every statement made to you, and that the entire lesson is corroborated by either the Bible or Science, and many chances to one--by both of them. It is, of course, possible that you are one of the many thousands of people in the world who do not believe in God at all. And according to the thousands of different stories told us as to what God is, and what He is not, I cannot say that I blame you. I do not believe in the sort of God that the majority of pulpits are preaching today, either. I used to try to--but no more. For every preacher in the world there is a different interpretation of what God is. If you do not believe that, turn your radio dial some Sunday night at about eight o'clock and listen to a few of the different interpretations of Him being broadcast. And if you can make head or tail out of the jargon you will listen to--then I'll put in with you.

A hundred thousand different conceptions of God--and all of them right. A hundred thousand different interpretations of the same scriptures--and all of them right. And all of this in the face of the statement of the greatest spiritual teacher this world ever saw, that "THE WAY IS SO PLAIN THAT THE WAYFARING MAN, THOUGH A FOOL, SHOULD NOT ERR THEREIN." Can you reconcile it all? You probably will before you finish this course of instruction. Only one man ever lived who claimed to be God. I mean, of course, only one man whose claims were worthy of consideration of a moment's thought. I am not admitting that this man WAS God at this point. However--He did what no other man has ever been able to do either before or since, so He is worthy of some consideration. I allude to the Galilean Carpenter--JESUS.

Three entire lessons are devoted to Him later on, so we shall not stop to go into His claims here. They will be gone into when we are considering them. Suffice it to say at this point that I consider Him to be essentially what He claimed to be. And considering Him to be just that, I shall take Him to be an authority on God at this point. I know of no other man qualified, up to His time, to even attempt to define God. There have been many since He came who are qualified so



to speak about God. I shall ask you to go back to the story of the woman of Samaria at the well of Jacob. You will remember that Jesus had asked her for a drink of water. In the conversation that followed, He made a positive, definite assertion that GOD IS SPIRIT. He did not say: "God is A spirit." If you will look in the authorized version of a Bible, you will see that the article "a" has been italicized, or printed in italics. "This means that it was interpolated or placed there by the translators in order to, as they thought, make "sense" out of the statement. Instead of making sense out of the statement, however, they made nonsense out of it, and shrouded it in mystery. In other words, they translated the sentence AS THEY THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE TRANSLATED, AND TO MAKE IT JIBE WITH THEIR OWN IDEAS OF WHAT GOD WAS. And let me say a word to the warring church factions here, and that is this:

If you would only understand that the men who translated this Bible were ordinary, every-day human individuals, just like you and I are--if you would only understand that they were only educated up to the light of their time, then it seems to me you would not care what interpretation was placed on the creation of man. What difference does it make, whether man's creation took one second or ten million years? What difference does it make whether man started as a humble amoeba, progressing through the ages until his present stage was reached--or whether he was instantly made in one short space of time? That is not what matters, my friends. What actually matters is:--WHAT MESSAGE HAVE YOU FROM THE LIVING GOD TO THE MAN ON THE STREET HERE AND NOW? If you and your brethren continue to fight and war on the interpretation of the Bible--WHAT LIGHT IS THE MAN ON THE STREET GOING TO GET OUT OF IT? That is what matters. And there is one thing that you can bank on--and that is that these men who deciphered this Bible of yours were 100 per cent human. And there is another thing you may bank on, and that is the fact that the men who WROTE IT WERE ALSO 100 PER CENT HUMAN. And if they were, then they certainly were subject to human limitation--just like you and I are. So quit your squabbling, and get down to basic fundamental facts about the mighty truths of THE LIVING GOD AS HE ACTUALLY EXISTS--because all your squabbling will not hinder the work of the mighty Life Spirit. What will happen is that the revelations which should come through you WILL COME THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE WHO MAKES NO PROFESSION OF RELIGION AT ALL.

I have digressed here. Please excuse it--and we shall go back to where we were. To say "a" spirit, would have been implying the existence of more than one spirit, and JESUS DID NOT DO THIS. So then we have the statement from one who knew, that GOD IS SPIRIT. A very definite, plain, and understandable statement. And how it opens up like a rose, the entire scriptures, when fully grasped. The next thing incumbent upon us, then, in order to have an intelligent explanation of what God is, is to find out what "spirit" is. So far we have the definite assurance that GOD IS SPIRIT. Now if you desired to know the meaning of the word "protuberance," or any other word for that matter, where would you go to find the definition of it? To the dictionary, I believe. So there we shall go. I think Webster is the accepted authority today, so we shall quote him. His definition is that "spirit" is LIFE, or intelligence, conceived of entirely apart from physical embodiment. What is that? Let me repeat that statement, in effect.



He said that spirit was life or intelligence, conceived of, or capable of existence of being without physical form. Here we are getting down to something definite about God. We are getting at a definition of terms. We are not accepting what someone else told us, neither are we accepting some theory or other--we are getting down to bedrock, so to speak.

We have, then, the statement that God is "life" or "intelligence," capable of existence without bodily form. And it is the best definition possible. THAT definition is corroborated throughout the entire scriptures--so I shall take it as it stands. There are, of course, many other things that God is, BUT BEFORE HE COULD HAVE BEEN ANY OF THESE THINGS, HE MUST NEEDS HAVE BEEN LIFE FIRST. I wish I could drive that statement home to you. Let me repeat it once more. BEFORE GOD COULD HAVE BEEN ANY OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT HE IS, HE MUST NEEDS HAVE BEEN LIFE FIRST. And without LIFE, all the other things that He is would be as naught. They would be theoretical. HAD HE NOT BEEN LIFE, HE NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING ELSE. It will take you a long time to grasp fully that statement, my friend. You will not do it overnight. But when you DO grasp that statement to the full, you will begin to understand what God really is, and more than that, WHERE HE IS. Try and imagine this Living God, the most dynamic power in the universe, being all around you, in the air, in the very same room in which you are reading this--BUT INDISCERNIBLE TO YOU IN YOUR PRESENT STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

THAT IS THE EXACT FACT OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD. He is not hidden away in some "unknown part of your brain" nor does He operate through your spinal column, or your "sympathetic nervous system" or anything on that order. Never believe such twaddle as that. THIS LIVING, DYNAMIC POWER--THIS MIGHTY LIVING GOD, IS IN THE VERY AIR YOU BREATHE. Not, of course, as one of the chemical constituents of the air, but LIVING IN IT--AND YET NOT PART OF IT--Can you grasp what I mean? I am sure you can. (Many Scientists on the verge of this mighty truth have stated that, "There is a thinking substance in the ether all around us." There is more than that my friends.) This statement completely revolutionizes the entire understanding of God as we have it today. You must make a clean cut distinction here, though, between God's actually living in any part of your physical body, and His actual presence there. To say that God dwells in you, as a body, is grossly wrong. For as Spirit He could not inhabit a material body, but to say that God dwells within you, and at the same time has positively no physical connection with you at all, is stating the truth as it actually exists.

Many Psychologists find it hard to do this. So they immediately go on the assumption that God Himself, or some attribute of Him, ACTUALLY LIVES AND OPERATES THROUGH THE BRAIN, THE SPINAL COLUMN, OR SOME PHYSICAL PART OF THE HUMAN MECHANISM. Such an interpretation is grossly misleading, and is false in its entirety. Furthermore, God HAS NO ATTRIBUTES OF ANY KIND WHICH COULD SO OPERATE. HE HAS NO MIND--HE CANNOT HAVE. AND THERE IS NO SUCH A THING AS A "GOD-MIND" or a "GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS", or a "GOD ANYTHING ELSE." There cannot be because GOD IS--NOT GOD HAS. Do you see that?

There is a little book published by the Unity School of Christianity at Kan-



Gas City, Mo., written by H. Emilie Cady. This book is called "Lessons in Truth." I should like to have every student of mine, when he has finished this course, send for that book. It gave me more help in my early metaphysical studies than any other book did, and while I cannot agree with Mrs. Cady in everything she teaches, I can and do agree with the chapter dealing with Jesus and the woman of Samaria. Also I want to acknowledge here, my indebtedness to Mrs. Cady for the help I received from this little book.

When I saw the flock of geese flying high in the sky and filling the air below with their "honks," I saw GOD IN ACTUAL OPERATION, THROUGH AN IMMUTABLE LAW HE MADE AGES AGO THAT GEESE SHOULD FLY. And when I saw the little robins building their nests, I SAW GOD IN ACTUAL OPERATION THROUGH A LAW HE PASSED AGES AGO, WHICH LAW GAVE TO THE LITTLE ROBINS THE DESIRE TO MATE AND THE POWER TO BUILD THEIR OWN NESTS. And when I went into my bedroom and looked upon the sleeping form of my little Alfred, I SAW GOD IN ACTUAL OPERATION THROUGH AN IMMUTABLE LAW HE MADE AGES AGO, WHICH LAW ORDAINED THAT THE HUMAN RACE SHOULD PROPAGATE THEIR OWN KIND, AND IN THE SLEEPING FORM OF MY LITTLE ALFRED I SAW THAT SAME LAW, THOUSANDS OF YEARS AFTER, STILL OPERATING.

But it would be the rankest kind of untruth were I to state that either the Living God himself, or any of his "supposed" attributes, were actually living in, or operating through, the brain or spinal column of either the geese, the robins, the grain of wheat, or the boy. Man's entire brain was given to him to control the functions of the PHYSICAL body only. The same thing with the brains of both the geese and the robins, and you may depend upon it, that no GOD, AS SUCH, ever operates personally through any flesh of any kind. As Spirit He could not possibly do that. In the body--but not of it. Also please remember here, that this body of ours is a body of death, and were it not for the immutable law, made ages ago, this body could not even exist one second. But it exists by law, and inasmuch as God is Law, then it exists through and by God. But in no sense of the word, can this body ever exist, either through the indwelling God on one hand, or through and by the power of any so-called "subconscious mind," on the other.

The common idea of God, held by the church people of today, seems to be that some power or other, preferably a personality, who dwells in His home in heaven, and is now up there, watching us, checking up on us, and making notes of all our actions. In some future time, we are told, we shall all come back to life again, and stand before a court of judgment, and those of us who did the right thing will be rewarded, and those of us who did not will be punished. Everlasting punishment it is supposed to be, too. Well--I have no quarrel with those who hold such a view as that. Their outlook and their future must of necessity be very stunted, though, and certain it is that with such prospects ahead of them, they can never attain much happiness in this life. The statement, however, to put it mildly, is erroneous--but all that will appear later. The point I want to send home to you now is that GOD IS INVISIBLE LIFE. In "Him we live, and move, and have our being," and that would be manifestly impossible if God were "in heaven."

The stunning fact is, that you could not take another breath without God. Not



without God's help, but without God. A sparrow cannot fall to the ground without Him. The lily on the mountain side cannot grow without Him. The wild geese would get lost without Him. The little robins might raise baby scorpions without Him. You could not wake up in the morning without Him--not without your "subconscious mind"--but without Him. Do you begin to see what I mean? This mighty Life, this mighty intelligence is EVERYWHERE. Right in the room in which I am writing this, and so close to me that in Him I press down these typewriter keys and send this message to you. And if I were to leave the room I would take Him with me out of the room, but He would still be in the room even though I were gone. In the next room to the one in which I am writing this, lies my little boy Alfred. I have just gone in and kissed the little fellow, for I love him more than I do my life. There lies the little body, and to all intents and purposes, and as far as he is concerned, he is as one dead. He does not know that he is asleep, even. And as I stood there watching the little breast heave and contract--just what did I see? I call the little form I saw, Alfred--but is it? That is only a name, and I could not see a name. So, what was it that I actually saw lying there in the little bed? Shall I tell you? Lying there on that little cot, my friends, I saw, not Alfred, but the mighty immutable God IN ACTUAL OPERATION.

Some Psychologists would have us believe that every tree, every blade of grass, every rock, every piece of steel--in fact, everything in the universe is what they call a "manifestation of the universal or God-mind" whatever that may be. I have explained once that "mind" has nothing whatsoever to do with it, and again I must ask you to disabuse yourself of the idea, if you hold it, that any "mind" of any sort manifests personally in any animate or inanimate object on this earth. That is NOT the explanation. The reason the trees grow is because AWAY BACK YONDER IN THE BEGINNING, BEFORE TREES EVER GREW BEFORE, GOD COMMANDED THEM TO GROW, and they can no more refuse to grow in violation of the immutable LAW, than can you or I. And the reason that the lily grows on the hillside is because AWAY BACK THERE IN THE BEGINNING BEFORE LILIES EVER GREW, GOD COMMANDED THEM TO GROW. Not because any power of "mind" or anything else grows "in" them, BUT BECAUSE THIS GREAT IMMUTABLE NEVER-CHANGING LIFE SPIRIT, CAPABLE OF EXISTENCE WITHOUT BODILY FORM, COMMANDED IT TO BE SO . . . that is the reason. In other words, this great Life Spirit made an absolutely inviolable LAW, that out of the single ear of wheat should grow the hundreds of ears--and that is the reason the farmer knows he will not reap jack-pines or cactus.

When the first wild goose was created on this earth, the mighty Life Spirit that created the goose implanted within it an immutable law, which immutable law guides it from one part of the earth to another--and THAT is the reason it cannot be fooled. And when the first pair of red-breasted robins was placed by this mighty Life Spirit on this earth, they were told to mate, and produce OTHER ROBINS--and THAT is the reason they cannot produce SCORPIONS. And when the first two of the human race, away back yonder, lost their spiritual estate, they were commanded to exist as physical beings, reproducing their kind, and were commanded to grow as we are growing today. And THAT is the reason we are what we are--and that is the reason we exist at all. Not because of any little part of GOD existing in our brain and spinal column but BECAUSE GOD COMMANDED IT SO TO BE. Living in Him, and yet



entirely separated from him--that is the situation as it exists in the human race.

So you see the question of finding the Living God is not going to be as hard as we imagined it on the start. The fact of the matter is that IT IS A HARDER THING TO GET AWAY FROM GOD THAN IT IS TO FIND HIM. And at this point I shall leave you till the next lesson. You will do well to read and re-read this one. It has not been written in flowery language, but in very simple terms, so that you may not miss the vital message it contains. Please try to grasp the idea of this LIVING GOD being around you, all through you, and directly responsible for the life that manifests through you. Not as your actions, but as the life itself. Your actions are not God--they are a very different thing, as you will see later.

Try to grasp the idea of Him being in the air, so to speak. Try to grasp the idea that you move as you do because of the mighty command and Law He gave ages ago, and yet try to imagine yourself not joined to this Living Power in the slightest degree--for you are not, for the Living God himself is not in the Law He gave. Study this lesson well. CONTINUE THE SAME AFFIRMATION 'TIL THE NEXT LESSON:-I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE LIVING GOD.