

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

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DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

Dear Friends:

We are sending this lesson to you having faith that it will really startle each one of us into more definite action. So often people have asked for some definite formula, or something to do, well, here it is, and it will keep us actively engaged in knowing that which is true without a shadow of a doubt.

We hope you see that firmness as to mind or good being the only power, does not make the good come out right, but it makes us see the good in its true light, for all is good in reality. This firmness is substance, that which stands under, that which sustains, supports, the essential part of anything. That which is essential is the necessary, indispensable foundation of life.

The next lesson will be on the "Radiance of Faith", that we may continue in this study, going more deeply into the glorious results of faith, filling us again with the Song of Rejoicing.

I Thessalonians 5:15 - "See that none render unto anyone, evil for evil; but always follow after that which is good, one toward another and toward all; Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, in everything giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward. Quench not the Spirit; hold fast that which is good."

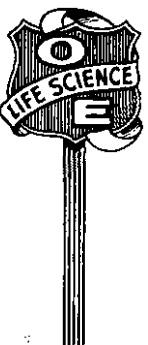
The Lord be with you in peace is the blessing sent from us at this time.

Sincerely,

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

S. Hammer Davis

Enc. 129



THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION 129

Assuring to the Acceptable and
Accepted HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

Oh Christ, Thou Son of God,
Mine own eternal Self,
Live Thou made flesh in me,
I will have no will but Thine,
I will have no self but Thee.

Ancient Gaelic Rune.

THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH

The best known definition of faith is found in the writings of Paul and around this eleventh chapter of Hebrews many books, sermons and lessons have been written. We will glean some of the best of it all and incorporate it into this lesson. It is well for the student to give this chapter careful study, then read in the twelfth chapter, verse two, where it says we are to look to Jesus, the author and finisher or perfecter of our faith.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence or conviction of things not seen." Moffatts translation words it thus; "Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for; convinced of what we do not see. It was for this that the men of old won their record."

Many have believed that faith is a theological term, good in religious life, but not for those who have to meet the so-called struggle of the work a day world. Even while denying faith, such a one is actually exercising faith in every thing he does or attempts to do. In this respect remember our definition of theology as the science that treats of man's relationship to God, and do not shy away from the word. Faith, love and hope are the theological virtues that unite man to God, through Jesus Christ, who makes us sharers in the Divine Life.

Faith is an assent of the mind, a conviction that something is true. Some one has called it an anchor of the soul. Faith means to be firm, but we have to know what we are to place our faith in, because firmness on the side of evil is stubbornness, and it opposes good. As evil is not God, there is not a particle of firmness in evil. We are to have faith in God, Jesus said, and more than that, we are to have the very faith of God, that firmness that is the very foundation of the world. A Christian has no other foundation than that which is laid in Christ before the world ever was. As Christ is the idea of perfection, a Christian sees to it that he places his faith in the perfection which already exists as the only reality. Man's faith is the evidence of things not yet seen, anyone can have faith in that which he already sees.

Faith is the key that unlocks the door to the Kingdom of Good. One great teacher says that the firmness of mind as to good is the original substance of all things. By our own reasoning we see how each makes his own life, and we understand what is meant by the statement; "According to your faith be it done unto you."

Among the disciples, Peter represents faith, and he was given the keys to the Kingdom. Surely you have seen in some church the symbol that stands for Peter, a shield with crossed keys on it. It is upon the rock of faith that the true Church is built, it is really the body of Christ, the temple not built with hands.

Faith is the foundation stone. Many illumined ones believe that Jesus never intended to establish the great institutions that have grown up around His teachings, for it tends to crystalization. In John 7:45, we find "It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God." One can be taught of God in the Church, the forest, in the home, anywhere that one maintains a purity of heart, for God is everywhere present. The Church seems to be necessary at our present level of consciousness, and most of us have a great love for our Churches because of what they stand for, but at the same time many Christians are not in the Church. All good is of God, and all beauty is of God, and this is our faith.

The student will find it very interesting to study the life of Peter as an illustration of the way one establishes faith. Faith is a quality of the mind, an act of the intellect, since it is a question of knowing the Truth. What one believes makes up one's lot in life, so if there is a flaw in our believing, there will be a flaw in our bodies or lives. To believe is to have confidence in, and one may have confidence in what has no life and no substance and be quite satisfied for a long time with such a belief. But eventually, if the things we have believed in have no true life and substance, they droop and fall away and man is full of disappointment. This is spoken of as misplaced confidence, but if one has confidence in God, no disappointment will come.

It is said that every bit of disappointment is a bit of death, for man has an appointment with God. Some have believed God sent their troubles, and many have ceased to believe in Him because of their afflictions. They thought no good God would let them suffer so much, and they are quite right. In this instance, stop and think, was their faith in the true God or an imaginary God? Jesus said it was life eternal to believe in the true and living God. God never made any evil, and the quicker one states this, the quicker one will give up the belief in it and it will fall away.

God ordains only good for every creature, and we see that innately everyone believes this, for each longs for his good. There is nothing to fear, it is not doubt of the good, but faith in the good that opens our eyes to see the good. Doubt in what is good is having a bit of faith in what is bad. The mind that has formed the habit of bearing up bravely under misfortunes has always been praised, but misfortunes are evidence of a habit of believing badly. This faith substance can be made perfect by Truth. Patience is not negative submission, but calm, quiet waiting for what is expected. It is self-possession, persistence in what has been begun. Thinking Truth constantly makes the substance so good that good conditions come to pass.

When one speaks of the trial of his faith, he means that his two ways of thinking have faced each other. He may mean his words have met his thoughts and find themselves at war. The thoughts

that keep up so steadfastly are really the feelings, the undercurrent. They ought to be one with our words if we would make the true substance. There will come a time when what we say will meet what we feel in our circumstances. This is the law of mind and speech, the work of the Spirit follows this - "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." The heart being the seat of memory or the subconscious mind, you catch a new meaning as to why the pure in heart see God. Man cannot live in the past or in memory, which is mostly emotional, for life is in Christ, and He is risen, alive and with us.

It is not necessary at all that we should have any trials of faith or chemicalizations of mind, body or affairs. Jesus freed us from the law. Spirit has no trials, nor tests, nor conflicts. It is no sign of a saint of God to be in trouble. Saints should be as tranquil as spirit, whose peace is perfect.

When trials come be sure to hold in mind, Truth only. Have no bitterness nor resentment, for that which is in mind shows up in our affairs, which are extenuations of the mind. Our mental reservations make our words powerless. Some seem to be working and speaking for success, while they are secretly calculating how it will feel to be unsuccessful. This is an undermining element, just like quicksand. It is a sample of the "double minded" man, unstable in all his ways. But, persisting in Truth, there will be no condemnation.

Faith is your firmament, or firm, steady way of thinking. God said: "Let there be a firmament." Difficulties are nothing to the mind that never calculates on defeat. The depths of your nature is God. "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." "All power is given unto me." It is from this deep inner nature that those mystics have spoken when they have said, "I AM GOD." "I HAVE THE FAITH OF GOD." Such as these do not mind criticism or opposition, but say boldly; "I believe that my God is now working in me to do that which ought to be done by me."

God does not send trial, trouble and tribulation in order that one may be helped out of them. God sends only Good, so we open our eyes to see the good. We may say often: "My faith is in the good and nothing but good can come to me." Would you hurt your child just to make it love you? NO.

There is no statement of faith you could make which the true God is not able to fulfill. In Genesis we find ; "Is there anything too hard for me, saith the Lord." The imagination is said to be the biscuit cutter of substance. You may say - "I believe I am able to do all things," for you know there is One Strength, One Life, One Support, which is God, the I AM.

There is enough in God for all to be satisfied, so do not be afraid to believe in perfection. What you believe in your heart you will see come to pass. Let us not be afraid to claim and believe that health is ours by Divine birthright, for God knows nothing of illness. In using a statement of faith for support do not be afraid to say you own all things and believe in having an abundant measure of good. God is unlimited Good. The mind is as deep and as broad as it has the courage to affirm. Mind will demonstrate as much greatness as it has courage to stand by its affirmations. Our early Christian martyrs believed and fairly welcomed martyrdom, when God, who is love, never required such a thing. Many people today enjoy being martyrs to various causes. It is an insidious condition and one that has helped the psychiatric profession to become established, because people are off their base. Let us not be in a martyr consciousness, let us not enjoy poor health. To overcome pain is not quite good enough, it is far better to have no pain in all the temple of the Holy Spirit.

There is no virtue in working hard to earn a name or fame, riches or peace. But there is virtue in having all these things without effort. The Prophets foretold a time when there would be no pain, nor sorrow or famine, in fact, we can laugh in the face of such if we are in the right consciousness. When we have occasion to declare that we do not believe in something, then let us be sure we quickly state that which we do believe in according to the Truth. It may seem hard to change your faith from evil to good, but it is well worth doing if you agree with the teaching put forth in this lesson. There is nothing new in the world.

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THOUGHT GEMS

Mind is as free as it has the courage to deny.
Mind is as great as it has the courage to affirm.
We are as free from evil as we refuse to think about it.
The firmness of the mind as to good is the original
substance of all things.

E. C. HOPKINS.

"If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye would say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou rooted up, and be thou planted in the sea, and it would obey you."

LUKE 17:6

"Thy faith hath made thee whole."

MATT. 9:22

"The Holy Spirit put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."

ACTS 15:9