

The Tie That Binds



INFINITE LOVE

UNIVERSAL HARMONY

ABSOLUTE WISDOM

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Plymouth Spiritualist Church, Rochester, N. Y.,

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Good evening friends. We are glad to greet you once again. To-night, we will want to come very close to you. Let us have a heart to heart talk. Let us come very near you in the solemn moments when, in the unity of spirit, the worlds meet.

We will look back, just glancing, and see, away back, the mineral, the vegetable, the fishes, the animal, then the *beast-man* and then the *thinking-man*—the man endowed with reason, with a free will, understanding, and power, drawing unto himself through intuition, and all these qualities,—love.

It is of this man we speak to-night, of the *to-day* man; he who thinks, he who reasons, he who dares to practice the thought, he who dares to use the free will, he who, through investigation, understands. He has power. It is *that* man we speak of to-night.

Because in the doorway which has swung so widely open between the two worlds—that other world which man has felt was so far away, that other world of which man thought in awe; that other world which is right next door and man of old had thought that beyond the chasm of death he dared not reach; but the real man of to-day applying the power of reason, cultivating this power, using it, has penetrated the veil of mystery between this world of the flesh and the life into which he must pass. His fear of death being obliterated, as he approaches the death bed of some dear one, it is not with a feeling of awe and fear, but he meets death with rever-

ence, with love which has filled him, yet with a feeling of loss. He is a loser, but the one he loves is gaining and he sees his loved one go through the shadow into the other life, just as in this life.

It has taken away all of that feeling which man has had in the old day that death changed man so much. Death is really just a slight change. It is just merely the laying aside of old instruments to use the new—the same individual, the same views and desires, purified by love and illuminated by spirit.

So, since the thinking man has seen the walls between the two worlds fall, he sees his loved ones close about him, he talks with them, he walks with them, for all thinking people know that the law of spirit return and communion is a fact—one of nature's laws. No thinking man can deny this if he investigates properly, earnestly, wisely, and sincerely, and clothes his investigation in every instance with truth.

No theory will change this fact, and now we—knowing this and knowing that the soul is so much like the body in the flesh, and that our lives are just the same, and we stand at the gateway and ask—now that we know that spirit communion and spirit return is a fact,—is it not wiser to reach further into the world of spirit, and know more of life, to be benefited by the knowledge of spirit return, that those returning from the other shore, whose lips have not been sealed, those friends who have not ceased to live, return to you from that sacred land of sympathy which is love; that which dwells in a larger or smaller degree in every human soul?

From this love, will not souls return from the great beyond and speak, commune, love and convey to their loved ones news from the other world? Not merely snatches of messages that depend upon the ability of the receiver to gather, but communications brought from the world of spirit.

This power to reason which man has in him is the greatest power man can have, for in gathering messages from the other world is it not much the same as here? Do you accept everything you receive from every source, without exercising your own reasoning powers? But when you receive messages from those whom you have

known, whom you have loved and you know love you, do you not believe that there is meat within;—that which you need? It makes no difference how simple the message may be coming from the world of spirit,—from the world beyond the grave.

When I say that, a thought comes to me—Why should man say the world of spirit, speaking of the world beyond the grave? Why is not the world in which man *is*, the world of spirit, or all worlds, worlds of spirit? All things manifesting are spirit. It is merely another expression of one great truth, which is life. Therefore, we will not say the world of spirit, because we feel that we and you and all are in the world of spirit.

We are manifesting one way or another. The great infinite spirit and all its fullness, permeates all worlds, all things, all peoples, be they in the flesh or out of it. So we will say we receive messages from the other expression of life.

Do you not look forward anxiously to the time when you will pass into that great world just next door to yours? And then do you stop to think that you are building here the world that you will take with you?

How can this be? In your every day life, you are furnishing, building, making your future home,—the home of the soul in which you will live. The first environment you will find after leaving the flesh is your own little home, or otherwise the home builded by your thoughts, your deeds, and all things belonging to you—No other can build your soul's home. They can help you, by inspiring you to good, but no soul can create for you your individual home, your soul's home, and it is into that you will pass.

And so, when the messages return to you from your loved ones who have very recently left the flesh, you will note the strong reflection of their soul's home in their personal home.

You will note that their environment at that time was builded here; they have merely stepped out of the body and taken their thought world with them and in this they rest, *or otherwise*, for a time.

I say "otherwise" for I fear that some homes will not be very

restful—some soul's homes, let us hope through ignorance, yet, be the cause what it may, there are many soul's homes not very comfortable.

There is another message brought back to man through the return of souls gone beyond—that what they do here, they surely must take into that other expression with them, and in this world they may find many conditions which will be very difficult to overcome, and there are many things which they would not care to see brought up before them; but they are, they are.

There is another message which has been brought back, which has been proven to the man of theory, and that is this: that he is his own saviour. The great masters returning, in asking you to show them—not asking you to live their lives, but asking you to apply the principles which their lives show are manifested to you; but men have lost much of this in the great world of finance and material thoughts; they lose the real meaning of the message of the masters who return. So now, as the wall falls, which has stood so long, builded by ignorance and prejudice; and builded thus, man has been hindered by this wall, and behold, the day of awakening has come when man has arisen unto the powers of the soul, the spirit powers, which are reason, understanding, free will, and power.

Behold, the wall falls and man can see beyond the limited vision of man in the flesh, and man can see into and understand many things which the old time minds have called mysteries.

There are no hidden things from the children of God, and behold, has not the Infinite mind placed in the consciousness of his children reason, and wisdom, to help further to free them from the shackles which bind and to bring them out of the narrow, out of the dark avenues, and lift them out of the night into the sunshine which beams in the hearts of every man, woman and child who desires to step out of the darkness into the light?

The shore which man has called the silent shore—behold the music of the souls of men respond to the cry of their loved ones from that shore—"I still love you, I still love you, nothing can separate us; we are with you, we are near you, we are speaking to you."

Can man to-day hold the thinking man, now that he knows and sympathizes with the world beyond called spirit? No. He binds his thought, he binds his thinking powers, he crushes them down into the narrow confines of ignorance and prejudice; he tries to believe, he tries to think that merely believing will save the soul of him. Save it from what? Save it! Why, the soul of man is never lost. A thing which is of God is eternal; God loses not one thing which is his; but through all the stages of evolution and enlightenment, through the wonderful law of evolution, man grows, passing through all the stages of life, through all the different expressions of life, and still his individuality is retained; it is not lost, but is eternal. He is constantly passing through stages of evolution. Behold the mind of man in the flesh, that which has reached the stage of intellect that responds to spirit, that mind which shows and manifests a spark of the Infinite. Man's individuality is retained through the ages; into that expression next to the flesh man passes with all the knowledge he has with him from the world here.

They will meet you; they will greet you; they will love you; they will serve you, but you must bear your own burdens; you must walk into your own soul's home, no matter how much they love you. Because they love you, they will let you have the experiences—the greatest lessons of life.

Experience is the greatest teacher man has ever known; it is from the wonderful school of life you are passing into that other expression, and now that you are entering, that other expression of life is permeating your world, it is merely that you cannot touch it, or feel it with the spiritual sense—*Know* they are there, they love, and walk and talk with you.

Knowing this, they have said that you are your own saviour. Now how are you your own saviour? Do you believe that you can wrong your brother? Do you believe that you can rob your brother, be it of material things, or be it of his physical body which is called murder? Can you do all this and then beg to be forgiven? Apply this light upon all this and see how you can atone. Not until you have personally made reparation to the one whom you have wronged,

which means by your own personal effort to overcome the conditions you have builded, by your own personal efforts, you are responsible for the soul of you.

What good things they have brought back from the spirit world. I think they are very good things to know. They have made us realize our personal responsibility; they have taught us that no individual can save your soul. That, you and you alone must do.

They have also brought to light this fact that the Christian religious movements—now I do not refer to Christians, understand, but I do refer to Christianity. They have bound the minds of men, and in their effort to do this, religiously speaking, they have bound their thought as well and have brought it down to the physical—so close to the physical that they feel they must build great stone monuments—high, high, high; they must put all their money, their savings into material monuments to God,—to the Son of God, whose blood shall wash away the sins of the world and that by man's believing this, he would be saved—the soul of him.

Now apply again your reasoning and think. What would you, man in the flesh, what would your reasoning powers lead you to think? Would you think this a part of the great and infinite plan, the infinitude of which no man can conceive? Would you call this the price of the savings of souls? Do you believe that the spirit is spiritual? Do you not believe it? Do you not believe that the things of the world must be illuminated by spirit and not by flesh? But it has been the teaching; it has been the great thought,—to help and save mankind.

Men have investigated along many lines of thought; they have sought to find different ways of confining the powers of the atmosphere and they have made improvements in a great many things; but they have been so bound, so far as spiritual things are concerned, that they have been sleeping; but to-day, when the world beyond the grave, the world of spirit which you call it, that life over there, that other expression, those souls return, not only to the spiritualists, not only to one denomination, but they return to their loved ones, be they in one church or another; there is no barrier between the true

spiritual souls of men, be they in one church or another and just as soon as the masses rise into that realm of thought, into the greater law of evolution, they will see that the infinite plan did not divide the children of God. But this must come through the same law by which all things come about—through growth; they must grow to it; it must come little by little; they must be led by different thoughts; but they ought not to be forbidden to think of the world, within which, dwells those who passed before, who, in returning to you, bring tidings of that other life.

It is true that they have not yet brought back proofs of immortality; no man in the flesh can prove to the scientific man the immortality of the soul, but they can prove the continuity of life and spirit return. But further than that, they have not been able to bring back positive proof to the scientific man; but it is satisfactory proof to the soul of man, applying his reason illuminated by spirit.

Wisdom, one of the infinite qualities, which responds to that within each of you which is a spark of the infinite; and in the giving and receiving they let the thinking powers work and these create influences, which are thoughts and they are going out into the world and there is a power to them which is closest to the world beyond—the thinking powers within you—and these respond to the higher thoughts as you direct them, and in the direction of the great thoughts within your consciousness, which you send out into the world of men, there are some who receive them and they in turn build upon them.

It has also shown man the wonderful need of pure, clean thought and it is also telling men of the awful thoughts of his fellow men. If man fully realized what it really means to rob his fellow man of his body while upon the earth plane; they never would do this; but this is just a state from which many souls have risen; it is a state of unenlightenment, for no man has the right, it makes no difference by what law—it is not a good law which will permit one man to take the body from the soul of another man, for, until he has completed his physical expression, he is not ready for the life beyond. For is it not perfectly natural that the astral body is in the embryonic

state? This is in preparation during the physical expression and into that body he will finally pass. Now, if the physical body is suddenly taken from him, his astral body is imperfect, is it not? It is not fully developed; he is handicapped in the other life as in this one and he, with an imperfect body, is compelled to stay close to the physical expression until that body is completely perfected. And many cases of insanity, which are not understood today, are caused by just such things as are going on.

Now if the body of man lives and manifests to maturity, that body into which he passes will be more fully developed. And if he passes away after a long illness, through a natural process as the physical body grows weaker, that other body is preparing for a tenant and by a natural process is developing more rapidly; but if he is robbed of his body while in physical health then you have earthbound spirits—earthbound just according to how far they have unfolded spiritually. If they are in a low state of development they will be close to the earth until their other body, which we call the astral, is perfected.

The spirit world has brought that back and I believe that, since men have asked that question, it is time for them to think and know of many things which have been brought back from the world of spirit through communication and, in all of these things, let us say that each and every expression, each and every individual manifesting is close to those to whom they were drawn by the love tie. But the thought which inspires these people whom they have loved, is not destructive—love is true, love is holy, love is eternal—and even when the earthbound souls come close to those they love, they would not come in destructive thoughts, they come in love. Then is the time, through that love alone, to send constructive, building thoughts.

How little man realizes what a wonderful thing is the power within him to build up or to tear down and if he uses it always to build, not of clay or stone, but a temple within, the door open to all souls—such as love, charity, eternal unity—these are the temples builded by those who are in the spiritual thought. They see the spiritual; they are rich in the things of God; rich in knowing of the

daily lives of their loved ones gone before; rich in knowing what life really is; rich in knowing that their thought, which is constructive and building, goes out and alleviates the anguish of other lives.

What monuments of service do your loved ones get? Your little daughter has left your home—passed into the other expression. Do you erect a tombstone? No. Take another little child into your home; cherish it! Love it! That is the monument which the spiritual man, who really and truly believes, will build—the monument of a soul. He takes the little child. It is a monument to the little daughter who has left his home. These are the monuments which live eternally. Therefore do you not believe that the world beyond the grave brings back some things which are helpful to man? I do. You do. And I will say also that they need not build churches of stone and clay, but, as the souls of men respond to the light *in* the living, eternal light-house of spirit, where there is no cloud, no shadow, they have seen the illumination and they love service.

Now, in building this monument to your loved ones, would you think of it as lost? Would you say they do not respond? Would you not think it better to divide what you have with them, than to have your name in some library, or somewhere, where every man would know that you gave it. For some day the libraries will crumble to the earth, but the monuments in the souls of men—do they live? Yes, eternally.

Now how do you reach your loved ones there? Do you seek to have them come to you in material thought? Tell me what you do, or do you meet them in spiritual thought? Have you come to speak to me? Bring me tidings of your soul's home? Have you found the little love thoughts I sent you? Do you get my love thoughts, mother? Do not try to bring them down to you, because you know not what you do, when you do this. Seek spiritually, spiritual things. Do you not wish to see the souls of your loved ones grow out of the old limited home? Do you not want this? Of course, you do, but you forgot as you opened the door, instead of opening the door to greet your loved ones, you opened the door with

a big stick in your hand, ready to strike them as they came to you in a spirit of love and truth.

But to-day man, the thinking man, he who reasons, applies his will power, receives through love the things of God—for all is God's and I am God's child and at my father's table is everything my soul would want, and I am my father's child. The infinite justice of my father's mercy, pure and holy, love undefiled, Infinite God, my Father!

If you apply the great thought "God is everything" and I, a child of God can have it. How? By aspiring to it, through love—with a desire to help my fellow-man,—not for him to help me, but to help him; to seek for people whom you may help. It is the giving which brings back, not that which comes to you—that which you give, purely and spiritually, will meet you in your soul's home. So do you, in the sacred, solemn moments of spiritual meditation, holding communion with God and spiritual friends in your effort to develop mediumship, not merely an instrument of manifestation, but strive to be a medium between God and man, for mediumship between God and man will come and in your love all the souls in all the worlds can touch your consciousness. Strive to attain that mediumship,—not to mystify. No,—the mediumship which will make for man a clear plan and will arouse the wisdom within him which reveals to him, more and more, the wonderful infinitude of God's plan that makes him realize of what great importance he is in the plan; if he *gives*, if he *lives*, if he *serves* and *practices* in his every day life *unselfishness*.

You are prone to forget spiritual things in the world of material thought, so let us put aside five minutes every day, five sacred moments for spiritual meditation, when you can put yourself away from earthly, material thoughts, into a love thought, inviting your loved ones to you. Tell them how much you want to see them grow, how much you want to help them.

We should love all people, for we are all God's children. Let us sit down at our father's table in *PEACE*, in *HARMONY* and *LOVE*; let our souls sing the song of peace. Good night.

