

THE CAPTIVE SOUL



INFINITE LOVE

UNIVERSAL HARMONY

ABSOLUTE WISDOM

THE CAPTIVE SOUL

*Lecture given thro Josephine M. Brace
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It has been said, "As a man thinketh within himself, so is he."

How many and varied are the interpretations of all spoken words. One lesson may be given to twenty people, and there will be as many interpretations of that same spoken message as there are auditors, sometimes. But each time one touches upon a great truth—no difference in what color or in what way the human consciousness touches upon a great and eternal truth, 'tis made clearer to that one, 'tis brought more closely to him, and in some way sinks deeper into his consciousness wherein is that light of wisdom which will reveal to him the inner and esoteric meaning, and expatiates that particular truth.

And so tonight we will try to lead you thru the various walks of a human soul; that man may see from that side how and where he is "as he thinketh."

When a great teacher, or one who comes very close to you tells that you can attain anything which you desire, this, I believe, is very much misunderstood because so frequently the student will take those words in such a limited positive way, limiting their desire to some one particular interpretation, some one particular stage of unfoldment, some one expression of a great truth.

In the directing of the wondrous power within you to think you must note that 'tis touching upon and, eventually, passing out into and thru the limitless laws of life. That you may attain that which you most desire does not mean

that in directing that thought to one certain point—for instance, you see one who is very successful in business, and you desire to be just as successful in business as he. You, instead of holding the powers within you under your perfect control that you can direct it thru the limitless law in the unfoldment of the powers within you, strive with a positive thought that you wish to attain that which he has attained, and thus you limit yourself. 'Tis in the growth from within; the coming out of the shell of you; it is in the illuminating of the omnipotent illumination of the spirit that you can continue to grow, penetrating all walls which lie before you. For, when you stop to think of it, **without the mind of you of what value are you in your expression?**

It is the mind, the power within, it is the soul of you which must go forth and attain that which you desire. This power within you is the power to think, the power to do, the power to control your destiny—for indeed, by the wondrous power within the human consciousness, illuminated by divine love, **by the eternal illumination of the spirit, man can attain anything which he desires;** but it is growth and unfoldment which brings him out to a better condition.

Man cannot direct his thought into unholy channels without some time coming to something which will stop him in his progress downward; for the soul of man is destined ever and ever to higher views; and if he directs his thinking powers along the line of higher illuminating things out of the limited into the limitless, he has then found the key.

Now, those who profess to be materialists believe they are very broad because they have broken away from the old and binding thoughts called religion; and yet take a materialist and speak of the things beyond that which he can see

and understand thru the physical expression, and he will be just as narrow and just as prejudiced as are those who have not even reached his thought.

But the soul of man will penetrate all those conditions knowing that no difference to what stage of growth he may reach, still there are greater things before him; and that all thoughts and all expressions of the soul's growth hold greater and vaster things than man has ever yet touched.

Within the consciousness of every individual soul dwells the spark, Infinite mind, and he, thru this is created to the image and likeness of God—it is not the physical shell, but it is the spirit within. And by directing his desire inward that it may be illuminated by spirit, and the things revealed to him thru wisdom, he will find that the opportunities which lie before him are limitless.

Man, in the directing of his thought powers will hold them within a certain realm; and he believes he is broad because he has burst from other doctrines, but until man realizes that he is a child of the Infinite and that he is heir to the kingdom of heaven; that the kingdom of heaven is within, and by turning his desires within himself he will then find the limitless way out of his difficulties; he cannot realize he is limiting himself.

Have you ever stopped to think and to utilize the powers within you to endeavor to reach beyond all the things which you know or have heard of the powers of the Infinite mind? Then know that you have begun to find but a very small portion of the great truth which is latent in the human consciousness of man.

It is true that the physical body, the instrument thru which you manifest whilst in the flesh is a vehicle, a temple of the spirit, and should be cared for, should be trained and cultivated and brought to as near a perfect condition as man can do it by the directing of his mind on things which are along constructive lines, and by building, and thinking things which are wholesome and good, indestructible.

Man is building his soul, and the soul is of his own building; but so many times and for so long man has gone forth unconsciously building conditions about him. Today, however, you will find in nearly all walks of life thinking men are directing their thought powers along constructive lines; they have discovered the wondrous powers within the human mind; and still there are many who have endeavored to bend it, hold it. Too long has man been held in bondage, not only in a religious way, but in all things pertaining to his thinking powers.

But as a little bird just freed from a cage, passing out into the great woods will sing until its little throat is almost bursting with gladness, so man when passing out into the freedom of thought into the soul realm of light; that he is his own savior, that he is master of his own destiny, that he is a child of God, just as much as any other human soul; that the world and the great universe is his; and thru his mind he can accomplish all things within reason, he will sing and be happy as the little bird in its freedom. He has broken thru the limited shell which his reason has left, but still he will find greater fields before him. Only by the proper directing of these powers within him can he find and draw to himself anything which is constructive and good. **If**

man sends out hateful or destructive thoughts, dropping a little word here and there which is detrimental to his neighbor, can he expect to have those seeds sprout up and come to him as something good? If he lays obstacles by little bitter words dropped here and there which may cause another to feel ill of his neighbor, does he expect as he sows those seeds to reap love?

How true it is, "As you sow so shall you reap."

You wonder sometimes how it is that some people attract others to them; why some people create within the souls of many, even by their very presence, the inspiration to better things. Study the lives of those people and see how many they hate; how many they cast forth bitter words to; how many people they injure by misstatements; and you will see the love they send forth from their souls to all humanity; and you will find there is a tenderness going out from their consciousness illuminating a way of peace, reaching other minds, and in some way inspiring them to better things.

If you meet some one in your daily life who is constantly carrying scandal and slandering their neighbors; if you meet some who glory in talking over the latest gossip, are you thru a loving friendship attracted to them? But you can help that individual by sending forth the love thought to him.

As you study humanity you will know just what seeds they have sown, by the fruits they are gathering.

The great eternal law of life, that esoteric plan of life, is penetrating every human soul as it manifests upon the earth plane; 'tis manifesting upon the mental plane which

really records everything, for it is the soul of you which continues to live beyond this material expression. So in your limited physical life, why not sow seeds of kindness, create the love vibrations about you, the love which is pure, holy and spiritual, the unselfish love; for there is attracted within those vibrations that which will draw to you friendship deep, true, pure and holy, the indescribable thought force, reaching the souls of all with whom you come in contact.

'Tis true, they are learning to think thoughts which break down and destroy their fellow-men; **but truly, will all these return to them—all that belongs to them surely will return to them.**

If you have happiness and comfort in seeing your fellow-man discouraged— if you can see naught but everything which is not good, or if you take before you a personality or soul and seek to find the little things which are not good and then holding that thought and perhaps suggesting that these things exist (not ever speaking them, but thinking and holding them within you) do you not believe that **some time they will attract their like?**

But the Divine and Infinite love flows thru the consciousness of humanity; and when man has touched the spring within his soul; when he has tapped the eternal spring within his consciousness, the spiritual field of thought, there he will find the power to do and accomplish all things which he desires, which are good and wholesome, and which bring him out of the lower into the higher.

In his thought he can attain all things—not by picking out this character to imitate, and that character, not by

creating an ideal in the person of some one else, but by creating an ideal within his own consciousness that he may weave about him all that is in the character he desires to attain.

When those who return from the other life tell you to live and speak the truth, you say, "We cannot do it in the modern days; we cannot be truthful in business and succeed." **What a terrible mistake—you can be honest and truthful in business.** It is because the physical mind is limited, it is because it is not of God; for **if he be truthful in all things he undertakes, if his word is always true, how long will it take humanity to see and know that by going to him for advice they will always get the truth?** how long will it take your world to see this?

Truth has a power of attraction which draws to him and expresses the greater things which are, trust, respect and love.

If man is satisfied with his own condition, it is just for a little while that he will be in that condition, for it is true, **a satisfied soul is a stagnant soul;** for no man who is satisfied with himself is progressing; but it is the soul who is striving ever and ever to better and higher things which is progressing, and 'tis by tapping the spring of spiritual things which will waken the powers to attain success (even in business) happiness, peace, love, understanding.

But man limits his powers by limiting his thinking powers, the greatest power manifesting today, the great power which cannot be bent; only as man bends and limits his thoughts does he bind and make captive the soul.

If you are a captive soul, you alone are responsible for this. It is time to loose the fetters which bind and bind the

soul of you; for there is a power within you to bring freedom—freedom to seek and find God within; to seek for the love and unselfishness within the Godspark—**man will find this in right thinking, for “as he thinketh within himself, so is he.”**

But man limits the thought within him by thinking, “I am satisfied with myself; I can do as this man does, or that man does,” thus limiting that thought. But if you will build your thinking powers within you thru that great law of evolution, they will grow outward, and you will see that being a child of the Infinite, the omnipotent power, you gather into that vibration by aspiring to higher and better and holier things; and you will reach out to humanity, knowing that all souls are a part of the great plan; you can rise into that field of opportunity and thus attain all that which you desire, and greater things; but this great truth, like many other things, has been misunderstood, misapplied. And man has discovered in his positive endeavor to attain some particular position in life that he has failed, and so he says, “Why, there is no truth in this wonderful statement.” But, dear brothers and sisters, **it is not by limiting the great laws of life that you find any great truth in its fullness**, but by directing your mind along the limitless laws of life in your endeavor to find the reality of things you will find that omniscient power, God omnipresent, yes, everywhere, within you and without, expressing itself.

But if you limit that wonderful thought power to surface things, to only that which you see and have seen manifested, you are not reaching out beyond the physical expression of life; but if you tap the spring within you in silent meditation when you are consciously tuning yourself

to the great and Infinite Divine Mind—in your endeavor to do this if you carry a selfish thought within you it is a hindrance; if you feel that desire to be greater than your brother or just as he is, and go into the silence, there is an obstacle in your way; but if you desire to be able to convey to mankind some great truth—it may not be by speaking, by opening the doors between the two worlds, only by being a truthful and honest business man, it may be only the practice of being an honest employer; it may be only an honest and truthful working man; it may only be by expressing love and kindness to all things, even to the creeping things of the earth, for insects are a creation of the Infinite mind.

Ask for love in your consciousness. In endeavoring to do this, you will find some way, some how to love all humanity; you will feel such a tenderness; you will see your brother fall and while they are all talking about him you will have a feeling of sympathy for him and you extend a hand to lift him; you feel the hate which has gone forth from other minds, but there is something finer within you, and eventually they will see Infinite love manifesting thru you.

It is your desire to attain material things, but in the manipulation of the esoteric laws of life, the great principle of the laws of life, you cannot fail, you will meet with that wave of vibration which will give you plenty in the material, peace of mind, rest, comfort and opportunity to live and do the things for humanity which you desire.

It is not by attempting to apply the great hidden laws of life to things material, things which will create for you perhaps opportunity to build more of your selfishness—no, no, it is the great power of the Godhead which is poured

into the consciousness of every soul; there is a living spring within you and thru it manifests the Infinite Mind, God; that great power which holds all things; which brought into expression everything—the power within you is the power thru which you will find God; for within you there is the spark of the Infinite.

If you strive to bring forth the perfection within you, in your endeavor to overcome your weakness, endeavor to reach humanity with some illumination from the great mind, spirit, thus you will find the things of God, and the fields of opportunity which lie before you.

You cannot tell by looking into the life of your fellow-man the powers within you—how can you see your soul within that man's limitless field? You cannot; but by seeking and cultivating the opportunity which reveals the illumination of God, likely there you will find the power you have to do things for humanity; and in serving humanity, reaching out into the great universal illumination of love, you will find the tenderest part of the human souls of men. It will be revealed to you; you will find the good therein, and the great illumination of that good; you will not see the little imperfections which are there, and which perhaps he has not found and knows not. **'Tis not by magnifying your brother man's imperfection that you attract love and success and peace of mind, no, but it is in magnifying the good within which will burn out the imperfection and reveal to you a child of God.**

Oh, brothers and sisters, the day has come when the souls of men must know that thru the illumination of their own consciousness they will find that God, the Infinite Mind, holding all the world and worlds, has no hidden thing but

that His children can find, if they seek to find in the right way.

To find the things of God, you must seek in a Godly way; seek for spiritual things in a spiritual way; to find the kingdom of heaven, you must seek within you, for within the human consciousness are the things of God.

There are many opportunities which you are losing every day; opportunities to do, to love, to be the best you can; and in attaining the very highest unfoldment you can while in the flesh, are you not being just what you desire to be?

If you strive to attain your ideal of perfection and reach it, you will find that beyond that there is a greater creation than which you have been growing up to, the ideal which you created in your consciousness. During that time you have been building a greater one beyond it; and so when you have reached this one, you are not what you would be; you will look at the wonderful ideal you have carried and say, "I will reach that one." But not that man will see and say, "I am greater than he," no, but he will see spiritually and lovingly, he will strive to attain the ideal he has before him.

Therefore, as you think, indeed you are; because coming to you ever and ever **in your daily life are the fruits of the seeds you have sown thru the power to think—thoughts are things; vibrations, all things which live are in a certain stage of vibration**—every little cell, every little part of your body is vibrating, atoms, yes, and they can be controlled to do by the illumination of spirit; but first endeavor to illuminate your soul because in doing this, your bodies, and your faces, are revealing to mankind that which is you.

For there is a law of attraction working eternally thru love, thru peace and thru truth. There is a harmony in those words, and thru and deeper than the words there is a harmony which will reveal itself to you as you tap the spring of eternal life within the soul.

Oh, man, as you touch upon the hidden things of life, behold, there is no end to the opportunities which lie before you. The great walls between the two worlds fall, and behold, you see there are no dead—those who have cast away the body, which dies and goes to the earth, while the souls of them illuminated by the fires of life are still living, still loving, calling you to higher and better things.

Behold! the walls fall down between them and you; and you will find there are no lost souls, only as they hold themselves captive within surface thoughts; only as they seek for limited things mentally, and thus spiritually in the great surface vibration; only that they have not yet found the eternal spring of life, the refreshing elixir of life which is ever and ever flowing into the consciousness, from which they can eternally draw into their souls. But no other soul can draw it for you.

Therefore, let us meet each other in the consciousness of humanity. **The great pulsing world of flesh is hungry for things of the soul.** Let us try to touch the spring within the souls of men. **If the spring within the souls of men were touched, there would be no hungry children. Peace would reign upon the earth.**

But until mankind has found the eternal fountain within the human soul, not until then will there be peace on earth, good will to men.

This is one of a series of lectures delivered thru Mrs. Josephine Brace. These lessons are given every Sunday evening at The Circle of Light lecture room, No. 5 West Utica St., corner Main and Utica Streets, Buffalo, N. Y. These are free to the public and you are cordially invited to attend.

FINAL RITES CONDUCTED FOR LATE MEDIUM

Josephine Brice, Minister
of Buffalo Church, Well
Known in Rochester

The funeral of Josephine Brace took place in Buffalo yesterday afternoon from the Delaware Avenue Chapel of the Circles of Light, of which she was minister. She formerly lived in Rochester and was well known here.

She was the founder of the Circle of Light organizations, branches of which are located in Buffalo, Rochester and Scotland, and was widely known among psychic investigators in Western New York, California, Scotland, and elsewhere.

The organization, of which she was the head, were similar to ancient Masonry and to the Essene Brotherhood, in that none could be admitted, nor could any advance from class to class, except after a long and laborious preparation and effort.

Some years ago, the New York Herald sent a special delegation to Buffalo to investigate the phenomena produced by her, with the result that a series of articles describing the manifestations observed in her presence were published by that newspaper. Scientists, among whom were Sir Oliver Lodge of England, Rev. Vale Owen, and others came to witness manifestations in her presence and much has been written in relation to the excellence of her life and work.

Her phase of mediumship was known to the psychic investigators as the independent voice. Through this particular phase, voices of departed souls are alleged to have spoken, and thousands of pages of typewritten messages, recorded by expert stenographers, are now in the possession of her organizations. Some years ago, a valuable book, called "Descending Light," was published in which there is contained a large number of alleged spirit messages.