

# WESTERN WISDOM

## BIBLE STUDY

by Max Heindel



### THE PRODIGAL SON

And he said, A certain man had two sons:  
And the younger of them said to his father,  
Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth  
to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son  
gathered all together, and took his journey into a  
far country, and there wasted his substance with  
riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose  
a mighty famine in that land; and he began to  
be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen  
of that country; and he sent him into his fields  
to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with  
the husks that the swine did eat: and no man  
gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said,  
How many hired servants of my fathers have bread  
enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will  
say unto him, Father, I have sinned against  
heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy  
son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But  
when he was yet a great way off, his father saw  
him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on  
his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have  
sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am  
no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth  
the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring  
on his hand, and shoes on his feet; And bring  
hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat  
and be merry.

For this my son was dead, and is alive again;  
he was lost, and is found. And they began  
to be merry. — *Luke 15:11-24.*

he story of the prodigal son is a  
parable whereby Christ Jesus intended  
to teach a lesson and not an actual fact.  
It is a story which tells of the differentiated  
Spirit's pilgrimage through matter.

There are different classes of Spirits.  
Some, but not all, have gone into the

school of experience, the world. They  
have gradually descended from their high  
estate in the World of God deeper and  
deeper into the sea of matter which blinds  
them. At last they find themselves enmeshed  
in the dense matter of the Physical World.  
That is the turning point where they wake  
up, where the unconscious path of involution  
ends, where self-consciousness is attained  
plus a consciousness of the world without.

The Spirit within, however, is not  
content to remain in this world. Re-  
awakened to a sense of its inherent divinity,  
it feels drawn anew to the highest sphere  
and says, "I will arise and go to my  
Father."

Then comes the toil of stripping off the  
various vehicles in which it has become  
enmeshed and of raising itself once more  
to the conscious communion with God.  
While engaged in this arduous task, *the  
Father meets it a long way off.* The still,  
small voice from within begins to speak and  
tell of the heavenly glories, and, at last,  
when either the evolution of humanity  
has been completed or the single Spirit  
has taken the short cut of Initiation,  
there is a reunion with God and the  
brothers who have not yet gone out into  
the school of experience. Naturally, there is  
more rejoicing over the return of one who  
has fought the good fight and has come  
back to his heavenly home, than over the  
one who has not yet sought to improve  
his opportunity. ★

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Between the humble and contrite heart and  
the majesty of heaven there are no barriers;  
the only password is prayer.

— *Hosea Ballou*