

Western Wisdom Bible Study

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church. This Western Wisdom Bible Course is available on a free-will offering basis.

Spiritual Growth

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering; of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. —Exodus 25:2

And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give. —Matthew 10:7-8.

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. —Luke 14:48.

Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. —Luke 6:38.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. —II Cor. 9:6-7.

These beautiful verses, so filled with spiritual truth, have been violated down through the ages, most often by frantic efforts of vain individuals who have wanted to raise money for temporal movements or fleeting programs. We do well to become as little children and read these verses once more as though we were seeing them for the first time.

The time of the law is slowly passing away. No longer must we order our lives according to blind injunction, for the Spirit itself is learning to cooperate with the universal laws, not through fear, but through a dim consciousness of self interest. Of course this is only a half step to the ideal set before us, but we must not expect too much all at once.

Some esoteric teachings use the technique of appealing to the self-interest: if we just learn to control our latent powers we will have such an expanded consciousness that we will be able to do more good work for others than we at present are able to do. This is a very subtle form of egotism, for about whom are we thinking—the

recipient or our own so-called spiritual growth? We can find no joy of service from work performed with that goal before us.

In keeping open the channel for the inflowing of God's vitalizing light and love we must keep open our outlet as well. But our energies must be used with discrimination. It was never meant that we were to take over the prerogatives of the Recording Angels in our zeal as we weaken our brother by assuming his rightful burdens.

But service implies the role of a servant, and the era of the "suffering servant" Christ is almost at an end. We look forward to the equality of brotherhood, when we may call every one friend. From our down-to-earth position, in our semi-blind state, the way to that goal appears to contain many altars upon which we are going to be called to sacrifice our precious lower selves. To our families we do not feel called upon to be anything except what we are, for they know us with a heart knowledge. Are we sure enough of ourselves, and the rest of the world, to let them see what is hidden deepest in our hearts?

Can we not find an exquisite joy in simply being alive and aware? The simplest gesture, a smile or a compassionate tear, accompanied by love of a highly evolved nature, has the inherent power to flood the life of our brother with an ineffable peace. may we consult our hearts often, giving of our love and understanding that our beloved may not be dependent on our good services, but may grow along with us, as equals, strong and reliant in spirit. □