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Words of Eternal Life

Emmanuel - Spirit

BEFORE THE DIVINE MASTER

LORD!

On the day of Pentecost, when you wanted to reaffirm the good news of the exchange between the World of Men and the World of Spirits, you decided to act publicly, without ministers or human leaders superintending the meeting.

Peter and his companions were praying after making arrangements for someone to fill the empty place of Judas when (1) **"they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."**

We do not mean that you discredit the authority and organization you honor with your appreciation, but that you may manage your ineffable gifts without the intervention of anyone.

The evangelical narrator goes further. He also tells us that the crowd listened to the word of renewal, taken by surprise because you made each one of the bystanders hear the announcement **"in their language"** (2).

We recall a similar passage from the first apostolic days to beg you for support on the threshold of this book.

We are grouped in these pages ~ the readers, friends, and us ~ looking for the meaning of your teachings with the

keys of the Spiritist Doctrine, which you bequeathed to us by the hands of Allan Kardec.

Here we intertwine attention and thought with no other credentials but the needs of our hearts.

We respect, Lord, all the temples that revere your name and all the religious powers that dignify you in the world, but we thirst for your words of eternal life, drained of any supplementation.

Travelers of long and rough paths, we bring the soul tired of supremacy and dominions, pretensions and sterile strife! Gathered together to hear your lessons clearly and objectively, we ask you for understanding.

And, remembering your presence on the mount, at the head of the crowd, eager for comfort and hope, we beg you, still, inspiration and blessing, so we can understand you and take advantage of the example of love and the message of light.

Emmanuel
Uberaba, September 14, 1964

01
Let Us Start Over

*“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment.”
(Matthews 9:16)*

Do not keep bitter memories.

You saw the broken dream.

You heard an answer of gall.

You endured the defection of the ones you love most.

You failed in the enterprise.

You reaped abandonment.

You have suffered disillusionment.

However, starting over is a blessing in the Law of God.

The cob reappears in sowing.

The warmth of spring returns the following spring.

Each morning, the horizon is illuminated with the sun's radiance, reforming the day value.

From January to January, the year is renewed, offering a

new cycle to work.

It is as if everything is saying: "If you want, you can start over".

However, the Divine Friend said that no one takes advantage of a new patch on an old cloth.

So, get rid of things that do not add anything.

Get rid of the useless.

Forget the mistakes that have come onto your path.

Throw away helpless afflictions.

Therefore, let us recommence any effort firmly, remembering that everything comes back, except the forgotten opportunity, which will always be a real loss.

Let Us Grow for the Good

*“For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God,
for God gives the Spirit without limit.”*

Jesus (John, 3:34)

Observe the generosity of Divine grants everywhere.

While man rations the distribution of this or that resource,
God does not alter His Laws of Abundance.

Notice the Earth around you:
The magnificent sun in all directions...

The pure and unmeasured air...

The source, given without restriction...

All infinitely given to everyone.

All liberally shared.

What happens to the Lord's concessions in the material
order occurs in the Kingdom of the Spirit too.

The doors of wisdom and Love lie open constantly.

The treasures of science, the joys of human understanding, the glories of art, and the lights of inner sublimation are accessible to all creatures.

However, from the river of graces of life, each soul only draws the portion of riches that can understand and make use of profitably.

Study, observe, work, and renew yourself for the good.

Expand your vision and help others by helping yourself.

Remember that God does not give His gifts to anyone by measure; yet, each soul brings along the value it has installed within itself to receive God's gift.

03
Avoiding Temptation

*“Watch and pray that you may not enter into
temptation.”
(Mark 14:38)*

Watching does not mean just guarding. It also means taking precautions and taking care. And those who claim to care are claiming to work and defend themselves too.

Prayer, in turn, does not only express worship and stillness but, above all, communion with the Divine Power, which is ceaseless growth toward the light, and with the Divine Love, which is indefatigable service in the good.

Everything that rests excessively is relegated by Nature to uselessness.

The hidden treasure becomes a chain of usury.

Stagnant water creates larvae of pathogenic insects.

Do not allow yourself to adopt the attitude of vigilance and prayer, running away from the struggle with which the Earth challenges you.

Stopped intelligence and hands impose paralysis on the heart that, from inertia, falls into blindness.

Feel the life that flows, sublime, around you, and work tirelessly, expanding the frontiers of the good, learning, and helping in your favor.

It is the highest formula to watch and pray lest we fall into temptation.

04
Love and Fear

“But perfect love drives out fear.”
(1 John, 4:18)

For our soul to expand without fear, with the accomplishments that the Lord assigns to us, it does not suffice the imperfect Love that stipulates earnings of gratitude; or that isolates itself in the greenhouse of private affection, claiming others' understanding.

We must worship the perfect love that illuminates everything and extends to everyone; without distinction.

The imperfect Love, seeking its enjoyment in the company of others, is generally selfishness in brilliant disguise. As one seeks itself in kindred souls, tormenting them under several forms of fear, such as imposition and jealousy, cruelty and despair, and ending up in the hell of bitterness and frustration.

Perfect Love, however, understands that the Heavenly Father has traced infinite paths for the evolution and improvement of souls.

That happiness is not the same for everyone, and loving means understanding and assisting, blessing and sustaining dear hearts always, on the step of the striving in which they stand.

Thus, to free yourself from the shackles of fear, it is not enough to welcome yourself in the desire to be ardently wanted and helped by others, according to the dispositions of incomplete Love.

You must know how to love, with abnegation and tenderness, between tireless hope and perennial service for the victory of good, under whose guardianship you will live always loving. This, according to the balanced and perfect Love by the Divine force, which raises us triumphantly, from the abysses of shadow to the heights of light.

05
Faith and Works

*“Even so faith, if it has not worked, is dead in itself.”
(James 2:17)*

Let us imagine the world transformed into a vast temple, respectable, no doubt, but overcrowded with creatures in perpetual worship of Heaven.

Inside, faith reigning sublime:
Exquisite prayers...

Admirable speeches... Praises and songs...

But, on the outside, the forgotten work: Fields in helplessness...

Abandoned hoes... Fireplaces in gray...

What is the point in the exclusive exaltation of faith, if it extends the death in the world that the LORD has entrusted to us for the glory of life?

Thence, do not believe in communion with the Divine Majesty, simply because you are careful in the external worship of the religion to which you dedicate yourself.

Noble knowledge demands noble activity.

The spiritual elevation is also the duty to serve the Eternal Father in the person of our brothers and sisters.

That is why faith and works complete each other in the system of our relationships with the higher life.

Prayer and work.

Sanctuary and workshop.

Culture and charity.

Ideal and realization.

In this sense, Jesus is our absolute example.

The Lord did not limit himself to the simple glorification of God in the Divine Palaces, in the education of men.

Out of infinite love for God, in the Sublime Task that was committed to him, He descended to the sphere of men and gave himself to the work of indefatigable Love, lifting us from the earthly shadow to Spiritual Light.

06
Towards Tomorrow

*What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet
forfeit their soul?
(Mark, 8:36)*

Remember to live by earning the eternal glory of the spirit. Creatures leave the Earth daily, whose step is immobilized in the anguished torments of frustration...

They stretch out their arms to the gold they have piled up, though... That gold only assures them of the mausoleum in which their ashes are kept.

They lengthen the memory for the name with which they exhibited themselves in human events, yet... Often the personal fulguration of which they became the object only wakes their hearts to the pain of belated regret.

They contemplate the field of challenge in which they developed a transitory mastery, but... They only see the dust of disillusionment that buries their dead dreams.

Indeed, yes, they passed through the world in cars of triumph in politics, fortune, science, religion, power...

Notwithstanding, incapable of real service to others, they only deceived themselves in the cult of selfishness and pride, intemperance, and vanity that devastated their lives.

And, they awoke, beyond death, without gathering its renewing light.

Remember those who suffer self-defeat after believing themselves to be winners; those who mourn the lost hours...

Consider that you should think, while it is time, to enrich your spirit for the tomorrow that awaits you.

In conformity with the teaching of the Lord, it is no use holding back the splendor of all the empires of the world while keeping the darkness within the heart.

Improve to Progress

“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several abilities; and he went on his journey.”

(Matthew, 25:15)

Improving to progress – that is the password of evolution.

The river of divine gifts flows in all the continents of life; nonetheless, each man collects its waters consonant with the vessel he bears.

Do not forget that God's talents are the same for all, and it falls to us to solve the problem related to the ability to receive them.

So, do not lose yourself in undue lamentation.

An hour lost in the complaint is a vast patrimony lost in preparing the just qualification for the goal to be achieved.

Countless people sigh for tasks of love, entrusting themselves to aversion and discord, while many others dream of serving the light, sustaining themselves in the darkness of idleness and ignorance.

The joy and splendor of the summits lie open, inviting all those willing to go on the peregrination of ascension.

Thus, if you harbor the ideals of improvement and progress, do not stray from:

- The work that renews;
- The study that perfects;
- The forgiveness that enlightens;
- The sacrifice that ennobles;
- And the goodness that sanctifies...

Remember that the Lord gives us everything we need to share His divine glory; nevertheless, do not forget that the Creator's gifts are present in the beings of Creation, accordingly to each one's capacity.

08
Life and Possession

“Is not life more than the food?”

Jesus - (Matthew, 6:25)

Use prudence so that your step does not give way to madness.

Thousands of people carry out the material experience, piling up external possessions for the sake of illusory evidence.

They lord over the land they do not cultivate.

They accumulate gold to no avail.

They keep a large number of useless clothing.

They retain large chests of bread that the worms devour.

They dispute remuneration and advantages they do not need.

And they are immobilized in fear or boredom, in an evil whim or imaginary illnesses, until death demands the return of their bodies.

Thus, do not forget your condition of usufructuary of the

and learn to keep the values of the great life inside your heart.

Take temporary goods to extend eternal good.

Use of obstacles to embodying the wealth of experience.

Do not withhold external resources that you do not need.

Do not despise any lessons.

Begin the straining of each day with the dazzling of someone who observes beauty for the first time. Be grateful for the peace of the night, as if saying goodbye to the world to transfer their residence.

Love for the glory of loving.

Serve without arresting yourself for anything.

Remember that tomorrow, you will restore to life what life has lent you, in the name of GOD, and that the treasures of your spirit will only be those that you have amassed in yourself, in the field of education and good works.

09
Help and Support

*And he asked them: How many loaves have ye?
And they said, Seven.
(Mark, 8:5)*

Let us observe that the Lord, in front of the hungry crowd, does not ask his companions: ~ "How many loaves do we need?", rather **"How many loaves do you have?"**

The passage denotes Jesus' caution in alerting the disciples to the need for something to present to Divine Providence as a base for the help, which we plead.

The Master managed to feed thousands of people but did not do without the crumbs that the apostles offered him.

The teaching is precious for our prayer apprenticeship.

It is not worth begging for the concessions of Heaven, stretching out empty hands with brilliant and moving words, but rather asking for the protection that we need, presenting, in our favor, the possibilities, even if tiny, of our effort.

It is useless to ask for the blessings of bread by immobilizing one's arms in the ice of laziness, as it is altogether inappropriate to pray for the talents of love, scorching one's heart in the fire of hate.

Undoubtedly, the Lord will work wonders to aid all the ones who share your journey...

He will provide help to those you love; he will transform the social structure in which you are and exalt the domestic temple in which you breathe...

For such, you must offer him the resources you have already accumulated in yourself for the extension of progress and the victory of good.

Do not forget, therefore, that in supporting others, the Lord will not do without the help, even little that he must find in you.

10
Overcoming Evil

*“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
(Roman, 12:21)*

We commonly use the expression “war against evil”, as if our most brutal attitudes were enough to exterminate and defeat it.

Undoubtedly, such a conceptualization is not altogether inappropriate because, in many circumstances, for us to limit it, we cannot do without vigilance and firmness.

Very often yet, by braying its manifestations with violence, we create other evils that express themselves through wounds that only the balm of time can heal.

The apostle, however, is firm in the precise formula of the true triumph.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Pursuing generally means inciting.

The best process of extinguishing slanders and offenses is entrusting our verb to excuse and kindness. The most effective resource against laziness is our positive example of constant work.

The surest way of readjusting those who are helpless to the

others is to assist incessantly.

The remedy against the curse is the blessing.

The antidotes to the poison of injury are the peace of silence and the benediction of prayer.

That is the reason why Jesus taught:

“Love your enemies.

Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who mistreat and slander you.

Forgive seventy times seven.

Offer love to those who hate you.”

Hence, we can often fight evil to circumscribe its orbit of action, but the only way to achieve perfect victory over it will always be our perfect consecration to unlimited good.

11
Let Us Help Too

*“But he said to them in answer:
Give them food yourselves.”
(Mark, 6:37)*

On many occasions, we propose to Spiritual Leaders determinate tasks.

Above all, they are opportunities for work that the Lord, selflessly and vigilantly, offers us.

We enunciate prerogatives and list several modules of action for charity:

The sick man, on a specific street.

The relative in need.

Not far, people were subjected to the whipping of spiritual domination by unhappy spirits.

The neighbor's conflagrated house.

The companion handcuffed to the bed.

The friend, in the disquieting ordeal.

The workers of Spirituality move and cooperate, devoted and industrious.

Nevertheless, as we beg for the aid of others, we ought not to forget the assistance that falls to us to provide too.

We must activate the possibilities of our fraternal cooperation. The resources, even reduced, of our purse, our contribution, our sweat, and hours; for the benefit of those whom Divine wisdom has placed on our way, so we can witness our faith.

Before the hungry crowd, hearing the claims of the disciples asking him for provision for the starving people, the Lord said to them:

~ *"Give them food yourselves."*

And the disciples collected a tiny amount of food before the Master turned it into bread for thousands.

The lesson is expressive.

It is not enough to pray for an intervention of heaven in favor of others with well-made phrases for us to fulfill our Christian duty.

First, we must do our part, as much as possible, so we may achieve the good and enter in tune with the powers of eternal good.

12
Before Jesus

“Is it I, Lord?”
(Matthew, 26:22)

At the word of the Master, referring to the spirit of frivolity and defection that surrounded him, the disciples asked boldly: – “Is it I, Lord?”

And frequently, by analyzing Judas' gesture, we incriminate him in our thoughts. Why would he have had the courage to sell the Divine Friend for thirty coins?

However, a deeper examination of ourselves will suffice for us to see our denial before Christ.

Judas would have given in to the dominant political passion, deceived by the insinuations of hungry groups for liberation from the Roman yoke... He would have imagined that Jesus, in the Sanhedrin, would claim the position of emancipator of his land and people, displaying superb human triumph...

And only after the painful and terrible disillusionment would he have assimilated the whole truth! ...

But we?

In how many existences and situations will we have sold him?

On the altar of our own heart, at the petty price of our madness?

In the preludes of vanity and pride...

In the demands of selfish pleasure...

In the tyranny of opinion...

In confessed guilt...

In the hunt for material fortune...

In the destructive rebellion...

In the oblivion of our duties...

In the debasement of our work...

In the intimate building of the Kingdom of God; let us meditate on our errors; whether conscious or not.

We define our responsibilities and debts towards life,

Nature, and our brothers and sisters.

In all matters that refer to desertion before Christ, we will have enough strength to excuse the faults of others, asking sincerely, in the depths of our heart: –

“Is there anyone more ungrateful to you than I, Lord?”

13
Good Works

“Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Jesus (Matthew, 5:16)

“**Shine your light**” – the MASTER told us –
We often think we are solely responsible for seeking mental heights. And we sigh restlessly for the domination of the brain.

Still, Christ was clear and firm in his teaching: **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good**

works and glorify your Father, who is in heaven.”

Not just for intellectual culture;

Not just for the correct phrase;

Not only for the flaming verb.

Not only for the efficient interpretation of the Divine Laws.

Not solely by lip prayer, brilliant and moving.

Not solely for the words and the bright votes.

It is indisputable that we cannot despise intelligence education, even because school, on all levels, is a sublime work, with which it falls to us to honor the Lord.

Yet, Jesus, referring to it, invited us to the constant exercise of good works, wherever it is.

Only the heart has the power to touch another one.

Only by perfecting our sentiments will we be able to nourish the spiritual flame in us by the Divine call.

With love, we will stimulate love...

With humility, we will generate humility...

With peace in us, we will help to build the peace of others...

With our patience, we will bring the patience of the neighbor.

With charity in our steps, we will seed charity in the steps of our neighbor.

With our faith, we will secure faith around ourselves.

Let us, thus, pay attention to our ameliorating endeavor.

Only by contemplating the light of good works do we possess will others enter the route of charity, glorifying the goodness and wisdom of God.

14
Benignity

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving
each other, even as God also forgave you in Christ.
(Ephesians, 4.32)*

Let us meditate on Divine Tolerance lest we fall into the precipices of violence.

We need solely to meditate on Heaven's incessant excuse for our weaknesses and cruelties before Christ, for us to embrace the fair need for untiring compassion for one another.

Jesus descends from Solar Spirituality, dispelling the shadow from us. We deny him shelter. The Supreme Lord, nonetheless, does not deprive us of His August Presence.

The Divine Benefactor exemplifies unconditional Love, healing us from body and soul ailments, teaching us benignity and renunciation as norms of just happiness. We, in turn, reward him with the saliva of derision and the cross of death.

The infinite Wisdom, yet, does not refuse us the inheritance of his renewing Gospel.

In the name of the Sublime Master, a prototype of Love and Peace, we waged wars of hatred, lighting bonfires of persecution and extermination; despite that, the Highest Father does not refuse us the opportunity to continue walking in time and space, in search of evolution.

Reflect on the magnanimity of God, and do not collect disappointments and sorrows, so goodwill finds you in the form of a safe and clean channel.

Holding resentment and revenge, toughness and rancor are the same as turning the heart into a vessel of gall.

In conformity with the Apostle Paul's warning, let us use constant benignity among us.

Only then will we live in the environment of Jesus, who brought to our life unlimited compassion; and the ceaseless backup of Heavenly Providence.

In the Route of Faith

*“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*

Jesus (Luke, 9:23)

The warning of the Lord is unmistakable.

“Follow me” ~ says the Master.

Notwithstanding, countless people complain of failures and disappointments, in matters of faith, in the schools of Christianity, because they do not heed his advice.

They seek Jesus, doing idolatry around his human intermediaries, and like every terrestrial creature, the human intermediaries of the Gospel cannot replace Christ before the soul's thirst.

Here, it is the Catholic priest, charitable and sincere, yet incapable of offering perfect holiness.

There, he is the pastor of the Reformed Church, attentive and noble but incapable of demonstrating all the virtues.

Somewhere else is the spiritist medium, selfless and diligent, but still far from sublimation itself.

Further on, doctrinaires and commentators, companions and relatives appear, fond of the study and excellent friends, but still far from the integration with the Eternal Benefactor.

And usually, those who accompany him, in the supposition of looking for Christ, before their little errors, due to carelessness or inexperience, hurriedly abandon the spiritual service, alleging disappointment and bitterness.

Still, the invitation of the Lord leaves no room for doubt.

Jesus was not unaware that all of us, the incarnate or disincarnate spirits who sigh for communion with him, are bearers of scars and afflictions, debts, and defects, frequently scabrous. Thence, the recommendation:

"If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

If you are thus willing to meet the Lord for the construction of your happiness, fearlessly renounce the trifles of the path, courageously bear the consequences of your actions yesterday and today, and follow Jesus as your Divine Model.

Do not forget that there is a big difference between following Christ and following Christians.

16

On the Path of Christ

*“But I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them
that persecute you.
Jesus (Matthew, 5:44)*

The path of Jesus is the victory of light over darkness and, consequently, full of obstacles to overcome.

A path of thorns generating flowers; Calvary and the cross, indicating resurrection...

The Master Himself, since the beginning of the apostolate, unveils to creatures the retreat of elevation through sacrifice.

He suffers, renouncing the divine splendor of Heaven, to accommodate himself to the earth's shadow in the stable.

He experiences the incomprehension of his time.

He helps without pay.

He serves without reward.

He suffers the distrust of the most beloved ones.

After offering a sublime spectacle of self-denial and grandeur, he is hoisted to the cross as a common malefactor.

Still, he forgives the executioners, forgets the offenses, and comes back from the grave to help.

All his companions in the ministry, restored to confidence, witnessed the Good News, going through difficulty and conflict, martyrdom and scourging.

There is no point, therefore, in the circles of our faith, the petitions of Protectionism, and inferior advantages.

Resurrecting in Spiritism, the Gospel makes us feel that we have returned to the flesh to regenerate and relearn.

With the physical body, we resume our debts, deficiencies, weaknesses, and aversions...

And we will not overcome the obstacles of our liberation,

providing inadequate adjustment to our inconsequential desires.

Accusing, complaining, and irritating are not conjugable verbs in the field of our principles.

The Lord said to us –

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

It does not mean that we should kneel in penitence at the feet of our adversaries.

It is up to us to live in the way they feel supported by our attitude and our example. They renew themselves for the good sentiments, as while there is crime and suffering, ignorance and misery in the world, we cannot find here the light of the Kingdom of Heaven.

17

The Divine Kingdom Exaltation

*“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
and [so] shall ye be my disciples.”*

Jesus (John, 15:8)

You will glorify the Supreme Lord and be a disciple of the Great Master...

However:

- Not only because you show yourself an expert in the Divine Scriptures...
- Not just because you know how to proclaim the merits of the Sublime Revelation, moving those who hear you...

- Not only because you keep have the traditions of your ancestors by hearted...
- Not solely because you sustain yourself in external worship...
- Not just because you receive comfort from messengers of the Superior Life...
- Not solely because you write brilliant pages...
- Not only because you possess spiritual gifts...
- Not only because you show elevated aspirations...

The word of the Gospel is unshakable. Let us glorify God, and we will become Disciples of Christ, producing fruits of peace and improvement, regeneration and progress, light and mercy.

The rotten seed, no matter how noble, is a dead hope in the earth's bosom. So also, however ardent, the faith that does not express itself in works of education and love, redemption, and kindness, is a dead talent.

If you call yourself a follower of Jesus, follow in his footsteps. Help, support, console, instruct, edify, and always serve. Let us do something for the good of all.

Only in this way will we grow towards Heaven, in the construction of the Kingdom of God.

18
Essential Attitudes

*“Whoever does not take up his cross and come after me,
cannot be my disciple.”
Jesus (Luke, 15:27.)*

In this passage of the New Testament, we find the correct formula for entering the Sublime Discipleship.

“Whoever does not take up his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” Said the Master.

The Eternal Benefactor recommends two fundamental attitudes if we intend to enjoy their intimacy – taking up the redeeming cross of our duties and following in his footsteps.

Numerous people believe they receive on their shoulders the wood of their obligations, but they run away from the path of Christ, and many pretend to peruse the path of Christ, but they refuse the wood of obligations that belong to them.

The first ones say they accept suffering; though, they are aggressive and unhappy, spreading discouragement and bitterness wherever they go.

The latter believe they breathe the path of Christ, but they abhor responsibility and service for their brothers, stopping at mockery and levity; even though they know how to interpret the lessons of the Gospel, preaching them with touching reasoning.

Some cling to lamentation and the demeaning of the hours. Others crystallize in irony and idleness, despising the gifts of life.

Let us not forget, therefore, that we must embrace the cross of the tests, indispensable to our redemption.

If we aspire to achieve communion with the Divine Master, we ought to do it with love and joy. Let us march through space and time, with the true Christian spirit of tireless work for the good.

It is what we should do if we aspire to achieve communion with the Divine Master.

It is not enough just to suffer; we must enjoy the suffering. Nor is it enough solely to believe and show the script of faith.

We must live each day, according to the saving faith that guides our way.

19
Thanksgiving

*“And he took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying: Drink all of it.”
(Matthew, 26:27)*

In the world, gratuity festivities invariably record the passing triumphs of physical experience.

Lavish banquets commemorate the reunions of the consanguineous family, joyful songs indicate the end of disputes in the justice of men, in which, many times, there are ignored victims, sobbing in the shadows.

With JESUS, however, we see an act of thanksgiving that seems strange at first.

The Divine Master raises hosannas to the Father, precisely at the time when he is about to leave to meet the supreme sacrifice.

He will undergo desolate solitude in the Garden of Olives...

He will suffer injurious imprisonment...

He will meditate on Judas' misunderstanding...

He will be denied by Simon Peter...

He will experience public derision...

He will be passed over by Barabbas, the unfortunate delinquent...

He will drink gall, under the crown of thorns...

He will pick up abandonment and insult.

He will suffer unjustifiable condemnation...

And He will receive death on the cross between two evildoers...

Nevertheless, He is grateful...

The reason for it is that in the logic of the Lord, above all, the eternal values of the spirit shine.

CHRIST praises the All-Merciful for the opportunity to

safely complete his Divine Apostolate on Earth. He gives thanks for the trust with which the Father makes him a living example for the redemption of human creatures, although this redemption cost him martyrdom and scourging, sweat, and tears.

Do not lose yourself, thus, in festive bids about alleged conquests in the flesh that death will confuse today or tomorrow, but in the whirlwind of the striving that sanctifies and perfects. Let us be grateful for the resources with which God improves us for the beauty of light and the glory of life.

20 Watching

“If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Paul (Philippians, 4:8)

Let us work by watching.

What occupies our thoughts is the substance that will constitute our own life.

Let us, in this way, remove the heart of everything that is not material for building the Divine Kingdom in ourselves.

Many criminal suggestions will seek to cloud our minds, much mud from the road will seek our hands on our daily

journey, and much of the world's detritus will try to immobilize our feet.

We can notice it in the cloud of incomprehension, disturbing our domestic environment...

In the wrongful accusation of intermingling with destructive slander...

In the gossip inviting us to lie and levity...

In yesterday's friends, who surrender to the requests of darkness, becoming censors of our qualities still in the process of amelioration...

Despite that, in the face of all mishaps, do not get caught in the webs of disturbance and shadow.

In all situations and matters, let us preserve the spirit in the angles where something noble appears, establishing the good and trying to do it with all the energies we can.

More support to the unhappy...

More help to the sick...

And, occupying our thoughts with the authentic values of life, we will learn to smile at difficulties, whatever they may be, gradually building in ourselves the living temple of light for constant communion with our Master and Lord.

21

Understanding

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves.”

Paul (II Corinthians)

Let us go on by understanding.

It is important to remember that the talents of faith and superior knowledge, the gift of consolation, and the capacity to serve, although laboriously conquered by your efforts, constitute blessings from the Creator in your heart.

Therefore, do not avoid plowing the good under the pretext of feeling still under the influence of evil.

Until we reach the triumph over our unhealthy desires, we

will suffer in life the scourges of temptations, whether in the body of flesh or beyond it.

The temptation of lust...

The temptation of revenge...

The temptation of greed...

The temptation of cruelty...

Temptation of all shades that emerge from the well of our instinctive impulses not yet dominated...

If temptation, nevertheless, is born within us, the flame of education and improvement comes from GOD, leading us to the Superior Sphere.

Then, do not be surprised when facing the conflict of light and darkness within yourself.

Follow the light, and you will find the right path.

Mediumistic richness, the brilliance of intelligence, genius resources, and consecration to virtue are treasures of the Lord. Though, in the happy definition of the Apostle Paul, we carry them in the clay of our profound inferiority.

We must thus recognize that all love, all wisdom, sanctification, excellence, and beauty of life, do not belong to us anyway, but to the glory of Our Father, whom we must obey and serve, today and always.

In Word and Action

“And whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Paul (Colossians, 3:17)

You affirm you are a Christian; you claim to be a follower of Jesus; you claim to be a worshiper of the Gospel...

It means that the name of the Lord is pledged in your hands.

If we seek Christ, we ought to reflect him.

We must, therefore, know how to act, as faithful representatives to Him, on the path we are on.

Remember such an obligation, and by fulfilling it, you will free yourself from shadows that torment you on your way with certain easiness.

The Apostle assures us: ~ **“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”**

Effectively, the word and the deeds represent the force of manifestation of our feelings and thoughts.

The heart inspires the brain. The brain directs existence.

The emotion creates the idea. The idea shapes the actions. Then, we must feel with Jesus, so we learn to reason and serve with him.

Does anyone suggest to us the extent of gossip in the webs of hasty judgment? Are there those who call us to contemplate the wounds and scars of others? Do disagreements arise with grievances in our field of action?

Let us use the word along the lines of the Sublime Benefactor, acting for the good of all, among kindness and forgiveness.

Are we tempted to retaliate for unexpected offenses? Do we suffer slander, nickname, and persecution? Do we live inner disenchantment or grief and anguish in the family temple?

Let us use the behavior of the Sublime Benefactor, acting for the good of all, between forgiveness and kindness.

Wherever it is and with whom it is, seek the good side of creatures, mobilizing pure love, so you may be really in the company of the Exalted Cultivator, purifying the threshing floor of the world.

It is not enough to declare our status as apprentices of the Master of masters. We must be with him, to collaborate for the advent of a Better Life.

23

Worship and Fraternity

“And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.”

John (I João 4:21)

You shall build exquisite shrines in the worship of the Lord of Life...

You will pronounce sublime prayers, extolling His distinguished glory...

You will weave with divine scintillations the moving and

beautiful word, with which you will define his greatness...

You will masterfully combine the texts of Divine Scripture to prove his existence...

You will display the most excellent mediumistic gifts, to speak of him, efficiently and safely, to your neighbor...

You will write admirable books, commenting on his wisdom...

You will compose precious poems, trying to adorn his magnificence...

You will cry out to him, in ardent prayers, revealing confidence and faithfulness...

You will adore him with your art, affection, prayer, and intelligence...

Notwithstanding, if you do not love your brother and sisters out of love for Him, the Loving and Just Father, what is the use of filial, sterile, and selfish worship?

A simple father of a family rejoices and expands in the children who, understanding his dedication, devote themselves to the aggrandizement of their household, through constant support to less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Unquestionably, the loyalty of your faith represents the

perfume of joy in your relations with the Eternal Lord, but do not forget that your continuous service, in the planting and extension of good is the only way in which you can truly serve him.

Whichever church where you express your reverence for the Divine Majesty, keep prayer, then, as a lighted lamp in your daily life, but do not forget that only by backing our inexperienced and fragile, fallen and unfortunate brethren, will we honor the Blessing of Our Father.

24

Freedom in Christ

“For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast, therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.”

Paul (Galatians, 5:1)

Let us meditate on the freedom with which Christ released us from the shackles of ignorance and cruelty.

Irrespective of the circumstances, he valiantly submits himself to the will of our Father without losing his faith dynamism.

The Divine Mission begins, descending from Celestial Glory to the narrow enclosure of the unknown manger.

He does not show a distinguished childhood in the burg where his family group is sheltered; he breathes the atmosphere of a simple life, despite the Sublime Light with which he surpasses the intellectual level of the lawyers of his time.

He initiates the apostolate of the Good News without constraining the great intelligence to accept his sanctifying doctrine, contenting himself with the adhesion of fishermen of simple existence.

Fascinating the crowds with his irresistible logic, he does not incite any impulse of social demands, teaching them to awaken the values of the spirit in their hearts.

Imposing himself through unique grandeur, that marks his presence, they beckon him with a crown of a king, which he does not accept.

Observing the people oppressed by foreign rulers, he does not advise them of any indiscipline, recommending, instead, *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's"*.

He knows that Judas, the unfortunate companion,

suddenly appears possessed by wild political ambition, signing agreements with persecutors of his Sublime Cause; however, he does not promote his expulsion from the inner circle.

He does not ignore that Simon Peter has weakness in the depths of his soul, which he will deny him before the world, but he comprehends this and helps him more and more.

He who had cleansed lepers and healed the insane, who had restored the sight to the blind and movement to the crippled, does not escape prison and public mockery, scourging, and the cross of death.

Let us reflect, hence, that freedom, in conformity with Christ, is not the abuse of the faculty of reasoning, undertaking, and doing, but the happiness of obeying God, building the good of all, even on sacrifice.

Solely on that basis are we finally free to attend to the designs of the Eternal Father. Without the need to suffer the dark dominion of the devastating passions that chain our spirit for an indefinite period to the expiatory darkness.

25

You Will Certainly Hear

“Save yourself, and come down from the cross.”
(Mark, 15:30)

If you are committed to doing good, you will certainly listen to the provocations of evil in every moment of witness.

- “If, in truth, you live in search of Christ, why do you weep under the burden of trials?”

- “What is the use of faith, for you on the course of so much pain?”

- “If you are a medium with a task in charity, where are the protective spirits that do not ease your bitterness?”

You should also state that the sublime principles of your faith do not move towards the easy comfort of the flesh, but to spiritual improvement, along the way.

You will teach by your example that the Gospel is not a workshop of advantages in the material world, but a temple of redemptive work, where we can repair ourselves before Eternal Life.

You will make mediumship an instrument for the practice of charity, even if it costs you immeasurable sacrifices, helping others without thinking of yourself. Just like someone who knows that the Law of Love is the mainstay of the Universe, you should provide a natural aid to those who consecrate themselves to the neighbor support.

On your path, you will convert Spiritism into an educative force of the soul; without demanding that the world get attached to your conveniences.

You will seek the light where the light is.

You will forgive any offense.

You will choose your flag in the fraternity.

You will conjugate the verb to serve wherever you are.

You will begin the work of redemption in yourself.

You shall pray for those who injure or slander you.

You shall love your adversaries.

You will help without demands.

However, for the exercise of such an apostolate, you will not pass over the Earth without incomprehension and scorn.

Christ Himself was targeted by them, through those who, surrounding him in the cross of sacrifice, cried out to him, mocking and ironic:

- "Save yourself and come down from the cross."

26

Whipping the Air

"I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so, fight I, as not beating the air."

Paul (I Corinthians, 9:26.)

Defining the intense work that was due to him in the extension of the Gospel, the apostle Paul said with great

accuracy: **“I for my part run thus, not as in uncertainty; I fight in such a way, not as whipping the air.”**

Today as yesterday, thousands of apprentices of the Good News spend themselves uselessly, through the hectic life, asserting themselves in the activity of the Master, when they only symbolize empty numbers in the tables of precipitation.

They have admirable plans that they never carry out.

They hurriedly comment on the merits of love, keeping a lamentable indifference towards certain family members whom the Lord entrusts to them.

They extol tolerance as a balancing factor in sustaining peace, but they complain bitterly about the boss who presides over their service or the subordinate who lends them support.

They receive the problems that the world offers them, seeking mental escape.

They manifest heatedly in matters of faith, nourishing inner doubts about the immortality of the spirit.

They demand the complete regeneration of others without considering readjusting themselves.

They cry out, accuse, project, discuss, run, dream...

But, once visited by the crisis that assesses in each spirit the values that he has accumulated in himself before eternal life, they hesitate, disenchanted, in the shadows of uncertainty.

When called by the death of the body to the great renewal, they recognize, afflicted, that they were in the flesh fighting fruitlessly, as one who passes through the earth whipping the air.

27

Freedom in Jesus

“For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast, therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.”

Paul (Galatians, 5:1)

The apostle Paul said, with great accuracy, that “**for freedom, Christ has released us.**” And not a few people in earthly opinion define Jesus as an ordinary revolutionary.

Frequently, they paint him as an ordinary oil tanker, hurting institutions and overthrowing principles.

Nevertheless, no one in the world has been a more faithful cultivator of respect and order.

No matter the circumstances, we see him above all, interested in loyalty to God and the service to men.

He does not require a golden cradle to enter the world.

He willingly accepts a humble and laborious childhood.

He embraces his ministry companions as they are; without claiming a certificate of heroism and sanctity from them.

He never turns against established authority.

He works to extinguish cruelty and hypocrisy, simonism and delinquency, but at no time does he persecute or strike men who suffer demeaning dominion.

He goes out to the sick and afflicted to offer his heart to them.

He serves indiscriminately.

He suffers the misunderstanding of others, trying to comprehend to aid more safely.

He does not expect a reward, not even that which comes in manifestations of sympathy and understanding in circles

of friends.

He suffers the ingratitude of beneficiaries and followers; without any idea of retaliation.

He receives undue condemnation and submits to the torments of the cross without recourse to justice.

And no one was freer than Him ~ free to continue serving and loving through the renascent centuries.

He thus taught us not the freedom that explodes from our untamed passions, but the one that flows, sublime, from conscious captivity to our obligations, before the August Father.

In the shadows of the *T*, the freedom of *T do what I want* often creates disorder and favors madness.

In the light of Christ, the freedom of *T must serve* generates progress and sublimation.

Let us assimilate from the Master the sense of discipline.

If we wish to be free, let us learn to obey.

Only through a duty correctly fulfilled will we remain firm, without bending before slavery, to which, many times, we are constrained by the inconsequence of our desires.

28

In the Conquest of Freedom

*For ye, brethren were called for freedom; only [use] not
your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through
love be servants one to another.*

Paul (Galatians, 5:13)

Before the contact with Christ, the Divine Liberator, the human mind suffered millenarian shackles of servitude.

It was the bondage of violence, converting the world into an arena of masters and slaves...

It was the implacable fetter of hatred guaranteeing impunity to racial crimes...

It was the darkness of ignorance, imprisoning intelligence in the webs of golden vice...

It was the obsession of permanent war, entangling people in torrents of blood and mud.

Christ came, still, and by conquering the spiritual liberation of the world at the price of sacrifice, he opened new horizons to humanity.

From the Crib to the Cross, the Divine Friend moves, reintegrating man into the possession of simplicity, balance, hope, and eternal life, which constitute essential factors of the fair liberation of the spirit.

So, we owe the Lord the happiness of our gradual independence toward immortality.

Nonetheless, to attain the divine glory for which we are destined, we must know how to consciously renounce our emancipation, straining in the spontaneous service of charity.

Only through our voluntary surrender to duty, for love of our duties, will we reach the halo of victorious freedom.

29

In the Study of Salvation

“Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved.”
(Acts, 2:47)

The phraseological expression of the text varies at times,

emphasizing that the Lord added to the apostolic community all those "who were being saved" or "who were about to be saved".

Nevertheless, in any case, the news serves as the basis for a relevant study of salvation.

Countless people believe that to be saved is to be free from all risks in the achievement of supreme tranquility.

Yet, we see Christ separating the souls in the process of salvation for the incessant testimony in sacrifice.

Many of those who were added to the service of the nascent Church, knew affliction and martyrdom, stoning and death.

Assigned by Jesus for the Divine Work, they did not shy away from pain.

Hands calloused by hard work, they lived bitter sarcasm and atrocious vigils.

They found in the Excellent Friend not only the Benefactor who guaranteed their safety but also the active Master who offered them the lesson in exchange for knowledge and struggle at the cost of peace.

Saving does not mean placing someone in the dome of laziness at a distance from the sweat on the evolutionary march, just like triumphing does not mean desertion from

combat.

In conformity with the teaching of Christ, who did not exempt himself from the infamous seal of the cross, saving is, above all, regenerating, instructing, educating, and perfecting for Eternal Life.

30

Overcoming Evil

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Paul (Romans, 12:21)

Numerous people, when they are not positively inclined to revenge in the face of evil they receive, show indirect hostility. Something like the postponed favor, the gall of reproach mixed with the honey of praise, the deliberate

forgetfulness when it comes to the honor of merit, or the lessening of enthusiasm when rendering service in favor of the less sympathetic persons...

Still, to overcome evil is not enough the "half kindness", peculiar to those who devote themselves to the polite excuse without adherence to the intimate field...

All manifestations that accuse this or that percentage of evil are always planting evil, generating failure and grief against ourselves.

The Gospel is very objective in the formula presented for the extinction of this scourge. To be free from the sinister slime of the ancient dragon that hinders the progress of humanity, we must be patient against its onslaughts, trying to forget it, forgive it, and do good to it as much as we can, for pure good is the only force capable of disarming its unconscious claws.

Let us not forget that if we wish to neutralize the nocturnal shadow, it is not enough to clench our fists against the dominion of night.

It is necessary to turn on a light.

31 Fighting the Shadow

"And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Paul (Romans, 12:2)

The evangelical warning is very eloquent, yet it is imperative to observe its profound expression.

The duly inspired apostle warns us that, in truth, we cannot tacitly conform to the world's mistakes, so often spontaneously embraced by most men. Notwithstanding, he does not induce us into an attitude of violence.

He does not ask us to rebel and shout.

He does not advise us to be bitter and quarrelsome.

In the word of the Good News, he only asks us for our transformation.

Under the pretext of following the Master, there is no point in going out with whip in hand, striking here and there, pretending to extend his influence.

We ought to adopt his behavior, who, aware of our vices and weaknesses, endured our hardness of heart, guiding us to the good each day, with the patient effort of the charity that understands everything to be helpful.

Thus, do not move the impulse of force, constraining your neighbor to determinate rules of conduct in the face of the illusion in which they indulge.

Let us renew ourselves for the better.

Raise the vibratory pattern of emotions and thoughts.

Grow to the Higher Life and reveal yourself in silence, at the height of your purposes, converting yourself into a precious auxiliary of the divine enlightenment, with the conviction that the seeding of example is the most lasting planting in the soil of the spirit.

Do not resign yourself to the habits of darkness; instead, make yourself clear inside, purifying yourself more and more so that your presence may radiate the moving message of love, and the dominion of eternal light is established among men.

32
Love Suffers All

*“Endureth all things.
Paul - (I Corinthians, 13:7)*

The earthly news reports daily on misdeeds committed in the name of love.

Murders are publicly perpetrated.

Suicides stain the path of hopeful homes with tears and desolation.

Theft, strife, insults, and perversity appear daily; in wanton of the sublime sentiment inspiration.

Helpless women, worthy men, promising youth, and unfortunate children, everywhere suffer abandonment and affliction under the celestial legend.

Nevertheless, only selfishness, translating the soul's attachment to its goods, is what sponsors the blows of delinquency, the mistakes of possession, the errors of impulsiveness and haste...

Love, far from it, knows how to rejoice in the contentment of beloved hearts, espousing their lessons and hindrances, pains, and commitments.

It does not get run over, nor does it dismantle itself.
It embraces the thief-sacrifice in favor of the beloved
creature, the reason for its happiness.

For this reason, in true love, there is no sign of any
precipitation calling for immoderation or madness.

The Apostle Paul affirmed, divinely inspired:
"Love suffers all things..."

And, for our part, we add: ~ Genuine love never breaks
down or gets tired, since it can wait.

33
Calm Down

*“But with God all things are possible.”
(Matthew, 19:26)*

Whatever the anguishing disturbance, calm down and wait, doing your best.

Remember that the Supreme Lord asks for serenity to express Himself safely.

The earth that sustains your home is a whole of tranquil forces.

The fruit that nourishes you represents an entire year of silent work provided by the generous tree.

Each day that rises is an invitation from God for us to attend to the Divine Work for our benefit.

If you get exasperated, you do not assimilate His plan.

If you shout, you do not perceive His voice.

Thus, remain confident, even at the price of sacrifice.

Probably, still today, you will find poisoned hearts that distill irritation and grief, fear and gall.

Even if they strike and stone you, be still and bless them with your peace.

The desperate will return to harmony, the sick to health, the insane treated, and the ungrateful will awaken.

It is the Law of the Lord that light dominates darkness, without noise, without violence.

Remember that every pain, like every cloud, is formed, shades, and passes away...

If others shout, oppress, beat, and curse, calm down, and wait.

Do not forget the Master's word when he told us that all things are possible with God, and guaranteeing your rest, take refuge in God.

Let Us Proceed

*“Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing [I do], forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before.”
(Philippians 3:13)*

If you become stuck on the path, on the pretext of accumulating bitterness of offenses received, remember Paul, the intrepid apostle, who, burdened with problems, did not resign to interrupt the work that the Master had assigned to him.

The providential friend of the Gentiles did not bother to listen to the remorse he brought back from his time as an adversary and persecutor of the Gospel.

He did not mourn the unbelieving friends of the renewal, of which he bore witness.

He did not complain about the relatives who received him, wielding the whip of expulsion.

He did not stop to regret the soured affections that misunderstanding had poured in the vessel of time.

He did not cultivate the voluptuousness of solitude because he lacked the blessing of the domestic thalamus.

He did not focus on the thorns that stung his soul and flesh,

despite feeling them.

He did not stop to complain about the stones in the way.

There was no vacation for useless crying in the face of the onslaught of evil.

He did not linger in the web of praise; under the spell of illusion.

He did not crystallize in his impediments.

He always headed towards the target he was supposed to attain.

So is it also with us, indebted or sinful, poor or sick, weak or helpless, disillusioned or tortured; let us do one thing, above all stumbling blocks and inhibitions:

Let us always go forward, forgetting the evil and doing the good.

Let Us Observe by Loving

*“And why behold you the mote that is in your brother’s
eye?”*

(Matthew, 7:3)

We usually have the habit of observing the inhibitions of others, with absolute forgetfulness of ours.

We exaggerate the probable weaknesses of our neighbors; we prejudge with harshness and severity the conduct of our brothers and sisters...

The question of the Master awakens us to the need for our education.

In general, we find in others only what we are.

For the benefit of our edification, let us remember the manners of Christ in the appreciation of those who confronted him on his journey.

For many people, Mary of Magdala was the obsessed and inconvenient woman; but for him, she appeared as a beautiful feminine heart, afflicted by unspeakable anguish, who, when understood and supported, would spread the sun of resurrection throughout the world.

In most people's minds, Zacchaeus was a usurer with unhappy, unlucky hands; to him, though, he was the friend of work, to whom he would impart elevated notions of progress and wealth.

In the eyes of several people, Simon Peter was weak and fickle; to him, however, he represented the brilliant one entering the shadows of prejudice, who would flee from the light of Pentecost to convey the Gospel.

In the opinion of his time, Saul of Tarsus was a tough doctor of the Mosaic Law, with a hardened and tyrannical spirit; for him, yet, he was a misguided companion who he would seek in person, at the gates of Damascus, to support him with the Divine Doctrine.

Let us observe under the aegis of love, for only pure love will finally remove the scales of darkness from our eyes so that others may appear to us in the Blessing of God, which they invariably bring with themselves.

36
Pure Heart

“Let not your heart be troubled...”

Jesus (John, 14:1)

Keep your noble and pure heart with you.

The Lord did not say: “Do not let your environment be darkened”, or “Do not let your route be dimmed”, because no creature in earthly experience will be able to march constantly to the sky without clouds.

Each cradle is the starting of a laborious course for the soul in need of experience.

No one will line up without obstacles.

The ominous past tense for the vast majority of us, the travelers on Earth, will raise in the territory of our own intimate.

The ghosts that we left behind, wandering and unburied, presenting themselves in those we hurt and injured in past existences, today turn to us, playing the inflexible creditors, asking for reconsideration and redemption, service and payment.

So, you will not pass through the world without storms and

fogs, the gall of harsh trials, or the siege of temptations.

Seeking the good, you will travel, as is right, between rocks and abysses, swamps and thorns.

Yet, the Master recommended to us: - *“Do not let your heart be troubled”*, because a pure and fearless heart is a guarantee of a clean and upright conscience, and whoever has a clean and upright conscience overcomes all disturbance and darkness, for bringing in himself the radiant light for the peregrination.

Let Us Observe our Hands

*“And he stretched forth his hand, and touched him,
saying, I will; be thou made clean.”
(Matthew, 8.3)*

Let us meditate on the grandeur and sublimity of hands
that reach out for good...

Hands that plow the soil; prepare the harvest...

Hands that build homes, schools, cities, and nations...

That write, loving in praise of knowledge...

Healing hands in medicine, which shape the wealth of
science and industry and ensure comfort and progress...

All of them open up generously towards the Infinity,
generating improvement and tranquility, recognition and
joy, operating selflessly for the extension of the blessings of
Wisdom and Love in the Work of God.

But let us also think of the hands that reach out to the
shadows of evil...

Hands that take the gold of the work in favor of all,
transforming themselves into usury claws...

And hands that trigger death devices, turning into shells

of blood and tears...

Hands that move in the studied mime of those who abuse the crowd to lead it to indiscipline, looking for profit...

Hands that wound; coagulate the gall of slander in the form of letters, that curse, poison, and worship inertia...

They all close in themselves, in circles of affliction and remorse, by which they imprison themselves in the darkness of suffering.

Let us, therefore, notice the forces of life to which we extend our hands.

Jesus, the Divine Master, passed through the world, extending them to the aid of all, teaching and helping, healing and stroking, relieving sick bodies, and lifting people.

To show us the supreme value of hands consecrated to constant good, he preferred to die on the cross with outstretched hands, as if opening a heart full of love for the whole of Humanity.

38
Save Yourself

*“Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”
Paul (I Timothy, 1:15)*

The Apostle's statement, affirming that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, is worthy of note. Though, we ought to recognize that saving does not mean grabbing the children of God from the mire of the Earth, so they may immediately shine among the angels of heaven.

Let us notice that immediately after the Lord's passage among creatures, the intimate physiognomy of men, in general, was the same as that of the time before his glorious coming.

The Romans remained in the gallop of the conquest of power, the Jews remained handcuffed to unhappy racism, the Egyptians descended into decadence, and the Greeks lingered smiling and impassive in their philosophy layered with doubts and pleasures.

The masters continued to be masters. Slaves kept on being slaves.

Nevertheless, the human spirit had undergone profound changes.

The creatures, at the touch of the example and the word of

Christ, awoke to the true fraternity and the redemption by divine flame, began to lighten the dark paths of the Earth, renewing the moral countenance of the peoples...

Being saved, then, is not ascending to Heaven with the shoes of religious favoritism, but converting oneself to the constant work of doing good so that evil is extinguished in all the world.

Christ saved us by teaching us how to rise from darkness to light.

Saving is, hence, lifting, enlightening, helping, and ennobling, and saving oneself means educating oneself to educate others.

39
In the Aid of All

*“For kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead
a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity”
Paul (I Timóteo, 2:2)*

Often, in our rooms of conversation and prayer, we turn compassionately to our less fortunate companions in the world. We sympathize soon with the sick and the desperate. With those who have sunk into the muddy waters of misery, or have been victimized by public scourges.

We pray for them, noting their necessities, and we try to help them the best way we can, to the extent of our resources.

Nonetheless, the Apostle Paul, in his recommendations to Timothy, reminds us of the spiritual support that we owe to those who bear on their foreheads the burning crown of authority, commanding, directing, guiding, clarifying, and instructing...

They are our brothers led to the eminence of power and fortune, of administration or leadership, who carry all kinds of temptations and hidden tests, suffering vicissitudes often portrayed in a lamentable way in the collectivities they influence.

As demented pastors, when unaware of their duties, they

suffer afflictive disturbances projected onto their sheep, creating calamities.

They generate moral disasters and collective diseases over the long course, which delay evolution and torment life.

Let us not forget, therefore, to pray for those who lead, aiding them with the blessing of sympathy and compassion. Not only for their zealously fulfilling the commitments that mark their path, but also for us to live with their healthy example, in true charity towards each other, under the inspiration of honesty, which is the basis of security on our way.

40
While You Can

*But thou, why dost thou judge thy brother? Or thou again, why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.
Paul (Romans, 14:10)*

Constrained in examining your partner's behavior in this or that tricky circumstance, do not condemn his moral embarrassment.

Remember the days of ash and weeping when the Lord held you down a few millimeters from defeat...

Do not believe yourself save from the new problems that will arise on the way...

Every incomplete service you left behind will seek you, again, in the conviviality, so you can finish it.

The legal end of all our struggles calls, for the closure of pure Love, as a seal of Divine Peace.

The stones that you have thrown at the roof of others will return in the due time on your roof; and the poisons that you have distilled in the hope of others will return in the breath of life to the environment of your home, testing your resistance.

Learn, therefore, from this day forward, to practice

tolerance and understanding, so the medicine you have entrusted to the hands of “now” does not embitter your existence, destroying your heart.

Every seed produces in the soil of time, and immaculate souls do not populate the Earth yet.

Distribute, therefore, patience and kindness to all those who have erred under the fog of mistake.

It is for you not to lack patience and kindness, of the one you will rely on when the shadow threatens you in the field of hours.

Help while you can.

Support as much is within your reach.

Cooperate as much as possible.

Relieve others' pain to the maximum extent practicable.

Look for the good, wherever it may be.

And while you can, forgive always, for no one will escape exact judgment in the eternal law.

If We Walk in the Light

*“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.”
John (I John, 1:7)*

So many times, arguments and misunderstandings separate us...

Private life resolutions, incompatibilities, discordant interpretations, resentments...

And then, considerable waste of time and work ruins our tasks and disrupts our lives.

We abandon the service, misjudge people and facts, complicate the problems that concern us and desert the work to be done.

However, such disasters will not befall us if we walk in the light since, in the radiant luminosity of the Master, we will understand that we all share the same hopes and needs.

If we move in the Sun of the Gospel, we will know how to identify the misfortune, where it seemed to be only rebellion and despair, and the wound of ignorance, where we are supposed to exist only evil and crime...

We realize that the error of many is because they did not

have the opportunities that congratulate our existence. We will see that once situated in the trials, these brothers suffer and succumb to delinquency; perhaps we would not have escaped the domination of the shadow.

The light of the Lord will make us feel real understanding. It will not be enough, however, for it to shine only in our reason and points of view. We must walk in it, assimilating its sacred principles, so we can show in ourselves the presence of true charity, the divine lever that, for now, is the only force that sustains us in blessed communion with the neighbor.

In the Mediumistic Service

*“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”
(I Corinthians, 12:4)*

By examining the spiritual gifts or, more specifically, the mediumistic faculties among the apprentices of the Gospel, the apostle Paul affirms categorically in the twelfth chapter of his First Epistle to the Corinthians:

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences in ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gift of healings 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But the same works Kindall these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

It seems incredible that such clear explanations about mediumship came to light nineteen centuries ago, outlining guidelines and specifying duties, by the firm hand of one who constitutes a faithful friend of gentility.

As Paul once said, let us remember today that mediumship

is given to each one for what is useful.

That is why, within the scope of spiritist action, we have mediumistic instruments for:

- Enlightenment, information,
- Comfort, and conviction,
- For the phenomenon to help the sick,
- Idiomatic manifestations,
- Interpretation, and discernment, as well as several other peculiarities of service

Yet, all of us, incarnate and disincarnate workers who seek our redemption from the Gospel, must know that the Good of All is the light of the Glorious Spirit of Jesus Christ.

We need to reflect it in whatever sector of work.

Let us, therefore, abstain from contact with the forces that operate the disturbance and disorder, visible or invisible, in the certainty that we will give an account of the mediumistic gifts we received from Heaven.

The spirit of the Lord, by his messengers, grants us this or that loan of mediumistic energies. It occurs on a precarious basis, but for our edification and needs.

In Mediumship

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, which the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves.”

Paul (Corinthians, 4:7)

By using the mediumistic faculties with which you have been endowed, do not forget that you work as a reflector, whose structural material has nothing in common with the light you portray.

The mirror, whether made of metal or glass, holds the sun's rays without sharing their nature, and the single wire transmits the electronic whirlwind without comparting its power.

However, if the mirror lies clean, it can retain the blessing of the light, and if the thread obeys the intelligence that guides it, it becomes a carrier of energy.

The same goes for mediumship, through which, with no major obstacle, you become a messenger of instruction and refreshment, hope and consolation.

Through it, you receive the influence of the Superior Sphere, without sharing its greatness, but if you keep your humility and correction, you will become an instrument for the moral help of a great number of people.

Though, just as sometimes, the mirror becomes blurred and the thread breaks, requiring readjustments, the mediumistic force in your soul is also susceptible to various ruptures, demanding restorative work.

So, do not give in to discouragement or denial, if this or that difficulty appears in the work of interchange.

The error, in the environment of sincerity, is always a lesson.

Steep yourself in Christian work, and take cover into the humility of the attentive and vigilant apprentice, spending severity with yourself and benevolence towards others.

Any gift of the Divine Light in the obscurity of the human being, which is expressed in the apostolic concept, is a **“treasure in an earthen vessel, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us”**.

44
Action

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast,
unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the
Lord.
(1 Corinthians, 15:58)*

In the struggles of everyday life, we are all driven to various operations to get ahead on the path...

We feel.

We wish.

We speak.

We study.

We learn.

We know.

We teach.

We analyze.

We work.

Still, we must feel the need for the good of all, so that we know how to wish correctly.

Wishing rightly to think honestly; thinking honestly to speak profitably; speaking profitably to study clearly; studying clearly to learn with understanding; learning with understanding to know by discerning; knowing by discerning to teach with kindness, and analyzing with justice to work in praise of the good; once, in truth, we are

all daily constrained to action, and it is by what we do, that each one of us decides his destiny.

We create for ourselves the uneasy descent into darkness or the sublime ascent into the light.

In the Support of Peace

*“Be at peace among yourselves.”
Paul (I Thessalonians, 5:13)*

We usually refer to war as if it were a phenomenon of political teratology, exclusively attributable to the excesses of cruel dictators when we are all summoned by life to sustain Peace.

We all interact with one another, and although our influence seems insignificant to us, it is no less alive in the preservation of general harmony. The forest is an imposing spectacle of nature, but it did not grow without the help of tiny seeds.

We can give our contribution, despite our deficiency of analysis as to the individual contribution to the common welfare. It arises as a rule from the unhealthy affliction with which we anxiously await the results of our actions.

Thirst for personal prominence in the immediacy of the Earth makes us proceed in the manner of someone who decided to build a house with total disregard for stones, bricks, screws, and beams. They are apparently unimportant, when considered isolated, but indispensable to the construction.

We often get used to cursing the brother who has become a delinquent, with absolute disgrace towards the

weakening of character he has reached, after a long obsessive process that corroded his moral resistance, almost always after our fleeing fraternal providence or simple enlightening conversation, capable of inducing him to victory over the temptations that led him to the consummated fault. We complain against the blaring of horns on public roads, and we are not ashamed of the violent ways in which we shake the nerves of those who hear us.

We are all called to build Peace, which does not need any impulse linked to war activities and which, paradoxically, depends on our endeavor to improve and educate ourselves. Peace is not inertia, but effort, devotion, work, and constant vigilance in the service of good. None of us are exempt from helping to defend and support it, since, often, collective tranquility depends on a minute of tolerance, from a gesture, a sentence, a look...

Do not say, therefore, that you are unable to contribute to the Peace of the world. If you do not admit the power and value of the so-called minor resources in the aggrandizement of life, build a palace in front of a vigorous power plant and try to endow it with light and strength without the socket.

In the Work of Peace

...My peace I give to you...

JESUS

Everyone aspires to peace. Few help it.
What do you do to favor it?

Remember that the safety of the most delicate devices usually depends on tiny screws or incredibly simple joints.

There will be no peace in the world, unless nations practice tolerance and fraternity.

And if the nation is a group of cities, the city is a grouping of homes, just as the home is a nest of hearts.

The harmony of life will thus begin in the depths of our souls, otherwise, all apparent harmony in the human landscape will always be a mere play of inertia.

Let us begin, thus, with the sublime edification in the core of ourselves.

Do not broadcast the alarm of criticism nor spread the fire of cruelty.

Begin your apostolate of peace by silencing the restlessness in the field of your being.

Where reasons for complaint arise, be the cooperation that restores the balance; where thorns of suffering grow, be the consolation that brings back hope.

Retain yourself in Divine Tolerance, and renew opportunities for doing the good for all creatures in your circle.

Reaffirm your commitment to serve, always keeping silent wherever you cannot act to help your neighbor.

At the price of self-denial, the Lord said to us:
- *"My peace I give to you" ...*

For Peace to happen on the path we march, we must attain, at the cost of our striving, the Peace in us, so we can radiate it in everything, in the living assistance of others.

Let Us Be at Peace

*Peace [be] unto you.
(John, 20:19)*

When storms roar around your path, calm your heart and walk in peace in the direction of the good.

Do not carry in your mind the dead weight of useless affliction.

Take refuge in the inner citadel of rightly performed duty and surrender to Divine Wisdom the anxiety that seeks you, like an invisible flame.

If someone refuses you, be still and pray for the disoriented and unhappy brothers and sisters.

If any circumstance contradicts you, reassure your soul and hope that events favor you.

Remember that you are invited to live one day at a time, whenever the sun rises.

And no matter how rich the sustenance resources are, you will ingest a single meal each time, and will wear only a dress at a time, in the tasks of each day.

Even though you long for the daylight, the dawn will not shine before the foreseen hour. Although you are interested in the fruit of some tree, you will not get to gather it there before the right moment.

However, on the pretext of guaranteeing your serenity, do not stay in inertia.

Think of the good and continue to build the best, like who knows that the harvest fed up asks for land blessed by the plow.

Whatever your difficulties, remember that peace is the security of life.

Let us not forget that, at the time of the Manger, the heavenly voices, after the praise to Heaven, expressed their wishes for peace on Earth. After the resurrection, Jesus returned gloriously to the coexistence of creatures, before any work plan, and said to the astonished disciples:
– **“Peace be with you”** .

Money and Attitudes

“For the love of money is a root of all of the evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Paul (I Timothy, 6:10)

Do not imprison money lest money imprisons you.

The blessing of life, which the Lord allows to circulate in the community organization, like blood in the body, becomes a dangerous tyrant of those who enslave it.

For this very reason, it deforms the hearts that segregate it in vice, as it becomes an implacable executioner of the miser who confines it in the vaults of usury.

Once handcuffed to the perverse intelligence, it is transformed into a destructive weapon, and extorted from the tears of widows and orphans, it takes revenge on those who collect it and instills in their heart the sickness and blindness of spirit.

Though, free in the field of progress and goodness, it becomes the hidden liberator of those who frees it.

That is why there is joy in spoon-feeding milk to a helpless child; or in the simple bed that cradles the sick without a

ceiling, returning in form of peace to those who distribute it.

Once guided, in the direction of those who suffer, it is a prayer of gratitude in praise of the arms that move it and conduct it to the circles of affliction; it is an inarticulate canticle of love for the souls that seed it in the punished field of suffering.

It is not the coin that debases the man but the man who defiles it, in the folly of the passions that degrade him.

Let the money that passes through your hands become a blessing of work and education, charity and help, like the air you breathe, without stealing it from the lungs of others, and you will realize that money, in its origin, is a simple property of God.

Charity and Wealth

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for
good works.
Paul (Ephesians, 2:10)*

If you believe that only gold is the current basis of charity,
remember Jesus, who enriched the Earth without having a
stone on which to lay his head.

Opening his own heart, behold him spreading the
unfading goodness of the Spirit.

He made the star of humility shine before the powerful.

He taught his disciples the truth without affectation.

He assisted the sick.

Provided courage to the disheartened.

Ministered consolation to the afflicted.

Imparted a new vision to the eyes of Magdalene.

Lit a sudden clarity in the spirit of Zacchaeus.

Was involved in compassion for the incomprehension of
Judas.

Surrounded Simon Peter's faintness with goodness.

Addressed compassionate blessings to the unrestrained mob at the foot of the cross.

Toasted the world with the oblivion of evil, resuming its conviviality later.

Remember, thus, that you can also distribute from the riches that flow from yourself, whose acquisition is inaccessible to the common currency.

Offer approval and encouragement to the good, support, and comfort to pain.

Extend tenderness and sympathy, cooperation and fraternity...

Spread understanding and hope among those with whom you live, and receive with gentleness and goodness those who seek you out...

Do not wait for leftovers in your purse to attend the plans of charity. Remember that love is inexhaustible in the fountain of the heart and that Jesus, even today, with God and love, is multiplying, day by day, the eternal treasures of Humanity.

Let Us Joyfully Trust

*Rejoice always.
Paul (I Thessalonians, 5:16)*

Remember the blessings that the Lord grants you through the arms of time, and spread gratitude and joy wherever you go.

Notice the forces of Nature, emerging, serene, from all the cataclysms.

The fountain flows singing through the sieve of the puddle.
The breeze whispers melodies of trust after the destructive gale...

The tree multiplies flowers and fruits beyond pruning...

Multitudes of stars shine in the darkness of the night...

And every morning, even though men have used the shadow to smear the earth with the blood of crime, the sun returns in luminous silence, lulling men and worms, mountains, and caves.

Even if evil strikes you temporarily, remember the good that makes up your richness of health and hope, work and love, and rejoice with the eyes on the future...

Boredom is desertion.

Pessimism is poison.

Face obstacles resolutely and stamp optimism in your spirit, so that you do not run away from your commitments in life.

Serenity in us is security in others.

The smile of peace is a rainbow in the sky of your face.
“**Rejoice always**” – the apostle Paul tells us.

And we add:

– Let us rejoice in everything in the Will of God, once the Will of God means Eternal Goodness.

In the Soil of the Spirit

*"And others fell upon the good ground, and yielded fruit,
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
Jesus (Matthew, 13:8)*

Concerning the parable of the seeder, narrated by the Divine Master, let us remember that the field of life is just like the common ground.

In it we find creatures that express spiritual soils of all kinds:

Pebble-men...

Hawthorn-men...

Kite-men...

Parasitic-men...

Ponds-men

Furnas-men...

Surface-men...

Obstacle-men...

Poison-men...

Straw-men...

Sump-men...

Erosion-men...

Abyss-men...

But we also surprise with joy the "harvest-men", those who, gathering with them the productive soil of upright character, the pure water of noble feelings, fertilizer of

abnegation, plow of self-effort, and the sweat of constant work, they know how to harbor the divine seeds of superior knowledge.

They produce the harvest of goods for their neighbor.

Let us notice the vast landscape that surrounds us through meditation, and easily by our attitude toward others, we will readily recognize what kind of terrain we have been in.

52
Spoken Word

*For nothing is hid, that shall not be made manifest; nor
[anything] secret, that shall not be known and come to
light. Take heed therefore how ye hear.
Jesus (Luke 8:17-18)*

The word is a powerful thread of suggestions.
It is in the word that we gather the teaching of the great orators of Humanity in the verbal tradition, but through the word, we also receive all kinds of information on the evolutionary plane where we live.

For such reason, if it is relevant to know how you speak, it is more important to observe how you listen, for according to what we hear, our phrase will sow balm or poison, peace or discord, darkness or light.

In the home temple, or outside, you will hear the most varied notes.

Appreciations about Nature...

Criticism of constituted authority...

Remarks alluding to the behavior of others...

Opinions, which differ on this or that point of view...

Each spoken record carries with it the impact of the action. Nonetheless, the reaction lives within you, solving the

problems or aggravating their structure.

By your answer, good will become the lesson or the joy of those who share your experience. Also, evil may become the whip or the suffering of those who accompany you.

Let us know, therefore, how to lubricate the gears of our hearing with the oil of pure love, so our tongue translates the language of understanding and patience, optimism and solidarity.

Our judgment is not always the judgment of the Divine Law and, as the Christ of God affirmed, there is no hidden purpose or temporarily hidden activity that should not come to light.

53
Written Word

*“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good;”
(I Thessalonians 5:20)*

The apostle Paul said: ~ **“Examine everything,”** but he did not forget to add:

~ **“Retain what is good”.**

Many people prevail upon the text to claim that Gospel learners should read indiscriminately, even when ingesting the corrosives of opinion in newspaper letters or the feces of thought in book form.

Yes, it is natural that the mature and balanced mind can read and observe everything, but it is not advisable that the children and the sick, the weak, and the potential alienated of reason experience everything and see everything.

The Divine Law wisely disposes of the matter, suggesting the survey of zones indispensable to just segregation.

Children find homes and schools so that they can prepare themselves for the challenges of life.

The sick ones are sent to hospitals to be rehabilitated. The insane solicit the services of the appropriate asylum in search of rebalancing.

Weak creatures whom a crime has marked with painful stigmata, retire to the penitentiary, in whose harshness they readjust.

Hence, if you recognize yourself in the fullness of spiritual robustness, analyze everything, aware that it is necessary to retain the good capable of helping in the edification or healing of others.

If you possess the necessary discernment and time, read everything, passing by the appraisal of comprehension and usefulness, but do not forget to choose and only honor what is good, to favor those who still do not think with security as much as you can.

We Will Improve

*"Quench not the Spirit."
Paul (I Thessalonians, 5:19)*

Let us know how to expand the values of the spirit.
Observe the noble road that offers you safe passage, and
remember that yesterday, it was a tract of uncultivated
land.

There, insidious snakes nurtured the little creatures that
piled up in their bosom while hungry worms grew in the
harsh undergrowth.

But friendly, selfless arms arrived, attentive to discipline...

Huge machinery worked the green hair of the field,
harmonizing its lines; the picks extracted stones like
crystallized phlegmons; the cement paved the open trail,
and organization gave an order to its movements.

How many sweaty faces and broken fingers of the workers
surrendered to inevitable accidents; and how many
worries they overcame, you cannot know, but you can
recognize that it was the intelligent work ~ the divine light
of the human spirit ~ the force that gave us the victory over
distance.

Every time the travel suppresses your anxieties and spares
you afflictions, even if, for now, you do not know how to

thank, the path shares with you the tranquility and contentment, involving the anonymous workers who built it in a sublime chorus of blessings.

Analyze such a lesson, found on every street corner, and do not forget that ignorance is also a distressing jungle in the world.

Let us embrace the service of education and kindness based on the discipline of Christ, who is the Celestial Engineer, and let us trace new paths of evolution and comprehension, in which people get closer to the exaltation of joy and the ascension of progress.

It does not matter if we are nameless craftsmen today.

The service done is worth it.

The humble glimmer of light that we light will envelop us in its glow, and the tiny seed of fraternity that we sow in the soil of life will bless us with its fruits.

55
Let Us Support

"And let patience have [its] perfect work..."
(James, 1:4)

Stop for a minute in the swirl of your usual worries and realize that you owe your equilibrium to the Divine Patience, which sustains us in every instant of life in a thousand ways.

Numerous people, perhaps, looking at you with the tenderness of a newborn, would doubt your capacity to survive earthly existence, but God had patience with you and gave you the maternal devotion that has helped you to activate the energies of your body.

Knowledgeable in psychology, in noting your child's untimeliness, probably suspected your possibility of literacy, but God had patience with you, and granted the heroic tenderness of self-sacrificing teachers, who opened new horizons to the child in the field of education.

And the patience of the Lord, each day, generously allows you to grow defenseless plants, to master the sweat and blood of animals, to appropriate the forces of Nature, and to make use, indiscriminately, of your brother's cooperation, so you can feed and medicate, restore and instruct yourself.

Remember that Perfect Patience which benefits you and

cultivate patience toward others. The fellow, whose harshness offends you, and the apprentice, whose incipience irritates you, they are brothers who ask you for aid and understanding, and those who slander or stone you, are sick people who ask for your compassion and consolation...

But for you to cooperate and understand, to harmonize and comfort, you must construct tolerance to encourage your steps. Once faced with all kinds of hindrances, keep the patience that reinforces, and, before the attacks of any order, cultivate the patience that forgets.

Protect yourself, so, in patience with everyone, without ever forgetting that the joy of men is the Patience of God.

Jesus and Hardship

*"...Let not your heart be troubled."
Jesus - (John, 14:27)*

Jesus never promised the disciples any exemption from hurdles, but often claimed their hearts for confidence.

In the cenacle, he affectionately opened his heart to the apprentices, and among many words of hope and love, he firmly asserted: **"Do not let your heart be troubled, nor be afraid"**.

He pacified the spirits of his timid companions behind four walls, aware that, around him, the plot of shadows loomed more and more extended.

Outside, Judas was drawn into the conspiracies of desertion; priests conferred with scribes and Pharisees about the best way to deceive the people so they would ask for his death. Agents of the Sanhedrin penetrated small street groups, stirring up the forces of opinion against him. Disincarnate persecutors excited the brains of the guards who would detain him in prison, and, all those who followed his activity, regurgitating gratuitous hatred, forested his ordeal...

Jesus, percussive, was not unaware of the conspiracy of darkness...

However, lucid and calm, after the end of the conversation with the brothers of the apostolate, he went to prayer in the garden, so that, in addition to prayer, he could entrust himself to the supreme testimonies.

Do not try, therefore, to flee from the straining that tests your worth.

Accept the challenges of the path as one who recognizes the call to battle for the victory of the good, with the permanent obligation to extinguish the evil in yourself.

And do not appeal to the Lord as an advocate of calculated evasion of duty.

The Master reminds us that He did not promise anyone dream avenues and blue horizons on Earth, but rather, once convinced that the storm of human contradictions would not spare even himself, He wisely warned us:

~ "Let not your hearts be troubled."

57
Jesus and Peace

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as
the world giveth, give I unto you."
Jesus (John, 14:27)*

The peace of the world is usually rancid laziness.

The peace of the spirit is a renewing service.

The first is uselessness.

The second is a constant benefit.

Let us see an example of this in our Divine Master.

Human homes denied him the cradle.

But the Lord revealed himself in peace in the stable.

Herod mercilessly persecuted his tender childhood.

But Jesus, who had moved to a new residence for the sake of the apostolate that he carried out, calmly endured the imposition of circumstances.

Denied by fortune in Jerusalem, he took refuge, happy, in the poor boats of Galilee.

By loving and serving the needy and sick, he received, at each step, the blows of the astuteness of scholars and casuists of his time; nevertheless, he never ceased, for this reason, to exercise, undisturbed, the ministry of love.

Abandoned by his friends, he serenely gave himself up to unjust imprisonment.

Under the insulting spit of the crowd, Jesus was scourged in the public square and led to the crucifixion but returned from death, haloed with sublime peace, to strengthen his coward companions, and help his executioners.

Hence, remember the example of the Excellent Benefactor and do not seek inner security outside the duty correctly fulfilled, even if it costs you the supreme sacrifice.

Usually, the peace of the world is the one that culminates with the resting of the corpses dissociating in inertia, but the peace of Christ in the service of eternal good, in permanent ascension.

In Honor of Freedom

"Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Paul (Colossians 2:8)

If you have reached a ray of light from the Gospel, move towards Christ, the Divine Liberator.

Do not think that such a journey of the spirit is easy.

You will find, on the way, various appeals to indiscipline and stagnation.

You will be surprised at every step by the sophists of Religion, by the forgers of Philosophy, the paranoids of science, and dilapidators of History, steeped in ingenious mental creations, in which they imprison their lives.

They seek to harness your thought to the chariot of the conceited argumentation to which they cling, hungry for praise and allegiance.

Mutilating the divine revelation, disfiguring precepts of the truth, abusing intelligence, or fantasizing episodes stolen from the faithful record of time, they lay traps or build theoretical castles, where the least dignified suggestion inclines you to rebellion and pessimism,

addiction and uselessness.

Attending, frequently, to undue interests, they flatter your incipience, incensing your name, when they do not fall apart in vanity, enticing you to decide for them, so that you can thicken their entourage of madness.

But by accompanying them, you will become nothing more than their prey, an unhappy servant of the unbalanced ideas that they emit, in the reckless purpose of opposing God Himself.

They want slaves for their fallacious systems, which they imagine, whereas Jesus wants you to be free to conquer your happiness.

Be careful in your dealings with all those who ask you for everything in the field of spiritual independence, limiting your capacity to feel and think, to undertake and build.

Making us tributaries of the false glory in which they encase themselves, they relegate our existence to sublevel planes.

The Christ of God, who has offered us everything in love and wisdom, has extended our emotion and knowledge, initiative and work, turning us into emancipated children of Creation.

All this, so we have not only life, but Sanctified and Abundant Life.

In Praise of Balance

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice."
Paul (Ephesians 4:31)*

On the common path itself, we find the action of equilibrium that excludes any assault of violence and any devotion to filth.

In the coastal cities, dikes restrain the raging sea, preventing calamities and devastation.

In large modern buildings, safe lightning rods restrain the fulminating impact of electrical sparks.

Since longevous time, solid sewers extract debris from the people's household.

Every domestic temple has systems for cleaning.

However, in the spiritual field, the unwary man cherishes in the fibers of his soul the slime of slander and the garbage of resentment, releasing the rays of blasphemy and the lethal wave of the wrath of anger, hurting others and tormenting himself...

How many illnesses are born from the swamps of bitterness? And how many crimes are configured in the

outpouring of anger?

It is impossible to enumerate them...

If the message of the Gospel announces to you the Good News of redemption, then escape from the domain of viciousness and cruelty.

Before irritation and discouragement, aggressiveness and insults, offer the ineffable gift of your Peace. Speak for the good, or keep silent, in the higher comprehension.

It is thus because in you, who has the name of the Christ committed to your own life, must begin the kingdom of love.

Earth ~ Divine Blessing

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus ~ (John, 3:16)

Do not curse the world that welcomes you.

In it you find the Divine Blessing, involving and constant, in the benefices that surround you.

The Mother's lap...

The body's refuge...

The warmth of the crib...

The comfort of a home...

The privilege of prayer...

The Alphabet support...

The light of knowledge...

The joy of work...

The wealth of experience...

The support of affections...

You receive the bread that feeds you and the thread that clothes you from the world.

In this world breathed the heroes of your ideal, the saints of your faith, as well as the apostles of your inspiration, and the intelligence that traced your route.

The Creator did not offer it to us as an exile or prison but as a regenerative school and holy shelter. Like a divine garden under the sky. Glistening with sunlight during the day and shrouded with stars during the night.

If there is anything in this shelter that taints it with tears and plagues it with disquiet, it is the pain resulting from our mistakes...

Do not, therefore, make yourself the cause of evil in the world, which, in all essential expressions, embodies the Greater Good in itself.

Remember that **“God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”**

Forgiveness ~ Holy Medicine

*"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
(Luke, 23:34)*

Every time you feel threatened by illness, you habitually have recourse to remedies that free you from apprehensions:

Soothing agents for pain... Sedatives for anxiety...

In short, in the face of any physical embarrassment, you try to rehabilitate the functions of the injured organ.

Remember such an imposition, and remember that there are sick thoughts of complaint and sorrow, avoidance and antipathy, requiring adequate medication to restore your equilibrium.

Then if in illnesses, in general, you need rest without major preoccupations in favor of healing, it is natural that in the case of spiritual ailments, you need forgetfulness to regain your strength.

Forgiveness is then a holy remedy for the mind's health in the daily experience.

As much as you should not keep debris and infections in the organic vessel, do not keep aversion and grudge in your spirit.

Forgive those who annoy you, those who hurt you.

Forgive now, today, and tomorrow, unconditionally.

Remember that all creatures bring their peculiar imperfections and weaknesses, even when maladjusted, just as we also bring ours.

That is why Jesus, the Divine Emissary, crucified by gratuitous persecution, begged God before his executioners:

- "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do..."

And, leaving the offenders in the inhibitions proper to each one, he sustained in himself the light of love that dissolves the shadow, inducing us to the conquest of the eternal light.

62
In the Verb Field

*"But let your words be in agreement with the true and
right teaching."
Paul (Titus, 2:1)*

Man spends a big part of his life in verbal activity. With words, he habitually articulates the good and the evil that marks his path.

It is regrettable, still, the waste of energy in this sense.

Often, no one expresses gratitude for the riches of a clear day; yet, the passing of a cloud with a drizzle suffices for many people to spout vinegary exclamations in long inconsequential tirades.

Generally speaking, there are no eyes for the contemplation of relevant public services; yet, the vague uncertainty of administrative work generates long debates of opinion.

Some creatures keep barometers at home to criticize the weather, just as there are people who punctually purchase the newspaper for the censorship of the government.

Many sleep peacefully when it is about listening to edifying teachings, declaring themselves sick of memory, but showing admirable self-control when the radio announces calamities, spending long hours of eloquent

comments.

Their attention dims when they need to learn the good, but their eyes blaze with interest when evil comes into view.

The world in itself is always a prattle of gigantic proportions, where souls meet to talk by agreeing to do...

Rarely, however, do they talk to help...

Numerous individuals overflow with the spiral of reproach, with the torment of envy, in the bonfire of criticism, or the labyrinth of complaint...

For us, however, the Gospel is sure in its warning.

"But you," the apostle tells us, **"Speak what is fitting for sound doctrine."**

Thus, do not forget that from feeling to feeling, we arrive at the idea. From idea to idea, we reach the word. From sentence to sentence, we reach action. And from action to action, we light the light or extend the darkness inside us.

In the Field of Life

*"Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is [life] indeed."
(1 Timothy 6:19)*

If you are interested in self-improvement, taking the opportunity is the watchword.

Look at the example of nature.

The bread that serves you is the essence of the many wrappings necessary for the chemism of the land.

The comforting environment of the household is the product of constant cleaning.

If you intend to advance toward the best, strip yourself of the useless.

Countless people aspire to tranquility by clinging to restlessness, while many others aim at the priority of faith by rendering homage to self-denial.

They want peace by keeping themselves irritable, and long for the security of goodness, affirming themselves so indebted to the evil that there is not the slightest possibility of consecrating themselves to virtue.

Naturally, we are under the burden of ancient troubles.

As heirs of a guilty past, we ought to review our tendencies and judge our needs, so we are not groping in the shadows. Yet, if we aspire to improve tomorrow, we must be better even today.

For such purpose, it is not enough to share the general work, but to select the common experience, assimilating its teachings.

You will not tune the antenna of your heart to messages from everywhere.

You will collect those that ennobled you.

You will not buy afflictions.

You will be concerned with what is fair.

Thence, do not forget that living is an attribute of all, but living well is the route of all those who are loyal to the Good, to the divine light of the Real Life.

64
Success

*"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
Jesus (John, 15:7)*

Several companions lose resources, opportunities, time, and strengths in the unmeasured preoccupation with success.

Dreaming of miraculous achievements, they end up frustrated in their mania for grandeur.

They say they are interested in cultivating the good. To do it yet, they expect the execution of imaginary businesses, the acquisition of power, the possession of easy gold, or the arrival of fortuitous prizes...

And, complicating their course, they suddenly find death when they least expect such a visit.

Notwithstanding, the greatest conqueror of all times did not leave the world as one who had triumphed...

He did not receive a rich inheritance, rule political principles, write books, or rank among the highest people of his time...

Imprisoned as a common criminal, he was sentenced to death and passed as a victim of dreadful failure.

Despite that, the seeds of pure love he planted in people's hearts transformed the world.

Observe the behavior of Jesus, and you will realize that our problem is not one of earning to do but doing to earn.

The harvest does not precede the sowing, just as the ceiling does not come before the base.

Let us serve the good, simplifying the way since the real victory is the victory of all. We know that we do not need to spend the possibilities of existence in expectation and tension because, if we are in Christ, all that we need will be done to reward us at the opportune moment.

“And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” ~ Jesus

65
Defense

*"And when they lead you [to judgment], and deliver you up, be not anxious beforehand what ye shall speak: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye; for it is not ye that speaks, but the Holy Spirit."
Jesus (Mark, 13:11)*

If you have a clear conscience in your responsibility fulfillment, you have in yourself a citadel and refuge.

Do not lose yourself in useless conflicts, nor become entangled in endless explanations.

If you are accused of mystification, answer with devotion to the truth.

If accused of malefaction, answer by doing the good.
All the binary faults in which your name appears, answer them with service.

The fruit reveals the tree. The work speaks of the man.

Whoever taunts you through mockery shows himself ill-informed or sick, and whoever injures you through insults carries thoughts of hatred and destruction.

You would not heal their evil with words alone.

Make them aware of your walk in the constructive work, and the Divine Light will inspire you with the correct verb at the specific moment.

By considering the behavior of Christ, when He was wronged in the courts, before the cruel detractors who hoisted him to the cross, we think that the Master, focused on the construction of God's Will, did so because He had more to do than to waste time in unnecessary defenses.

66
The First Step

*"All things therefore whatsoever ye would those men
should do unto you, even so, do ye also unto them: for this
is the Law and the Prophets."
Jesus (Matthew, 7:12)*

The golden rule receives citations in every country.

Around it, gravitate precious books, poems, appeals, and sermons.

Though, few remember the first step to unveiling its full greatness.

We cannot claim the help of others.

We should rather back them up.

It will not be licit to demand someone's excuse. We must learn to apologize.

When invited to understand, many say: "I can't", and when urged to help, many answers: "Not yet..."

They forget, however, that tomorrow they may be the needy and the defendants, in wanton of forgiveness and relief. And, many times, even when they do not need such blessings for themselves, they will long for them on behalf of their beloved ones, faced with the shadows that

devastate them.

If an example can be invoked, as a compass, let us remember Jesus.

The Master of masters does the good, unconcerned with considerations, relieves without payment, kindles hope without men asking for it, and spontaneously forgives those who injure and stone, without waiting for them to retract.

So let us venerate the golden rule and extend the spirit of love that it touches, divine; still, let us be sure that it is only valid for us if we give it the necessary application.

The text of the teaching is vivid and frank:

"All things therefore whatsoever ye would those men should do unto you, even so, do ye also unto them."

Wishing the good is the impulse of everyone, but, in the practice of the sublime statute, we must be the ones who go ahead to do it.

The Best Measure

*"And let patience have [its] perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing."
(James, 1:4)*

More than the common diseases of the body, you suffer from problems of the soul, aggravating your tension every day.

More than the pathogenic microbes attacking the tissues of your physical instrument, you suffer the intrusion of disturbing mental agents, tormenting the fibers of your spirit.

You wake up each morning, many times, with the endeavor of the last day, and before you reharmonize your strength, you mentally stagger under the impact of the irritation of family members, who cannot comprehend you.

You give long explanations for the benefit of the environment tranquility; yet, you barely finish the affectionate reasoning, and someone mishandles your words, complicating matters around...

You move correctness and sincerity, honoring your duties; but when you think you are exempt from all criticism, someone appears, pulling your heart into the ambiance of injury...

You endow affection and selflessness, cultivating love alongside someone; nonetheless, when you believe yourself safe in the path of understanding, you observe that ingratitude poisons your best gestures...

Though, when faced with every difficulty, do not be discouraged or fade away.

For all trouble, patience is the best measure.

Do not say any words you might regret.

Always silence and bless, because tomorrow, those people that today fall into the shadows, will come back to light.

When forgotten, be patient and help without demanding.

Insulted, resort to patience and forget evil.

In all pains, lean on patience.

In all the embarrassment, wait patiently.

All human progress arises from Divine patience.

So, keep yourself with the strength of patience, and wherever you are you will always do your best.

68
Waiting

*"And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the
promise."
Paul (Hebrews 6:15)*

In any circumstance, wait patiently.

If someone has offended you, wait.

Do not take revenge on those who already carry
unhappiness in themselves.

If someone has harmed you, wait.

There is no need to take revenge on someone who is
already marked by justice.

If you suffer, wait still.

Pain is always a sanctifying warning.

If obstacles visit you, wait.

Today's embarrassment is often tomorrow's benefit.

The fountain, while helping wherever it passes, waits for
the river and reaches the vast ocean.

The tree, giving unceasing help, waits for the flower and gains the blessing of the fruit.

Yet, the hoe that waits, immobile, acquires the rust that wears it out.

The well that waits, storing standing water, turns itself into a vessel of rottenness.

Whatever your difficulties may be, then, wait, doing the best you can for others, so that your hope may rise sublime, in luminous accomplishment.

In the Light of Compassion

*"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."
Jesus (Matthew, 5:7)*

Let the light of compassion brighten your way so the shadow does not envelop you.

Do you suffer the presence of those who trample your hopes?

Compassion for them.

Do you hear the words of those who mock you?

Compassion for them.

Do you suffer the moral assault of those who disturb you?

Compassion for them.

Do you receive the barb from those who persecute you?

Compassion for them.

Cruelty and sarcasm, dementia, and vileness are wounds that time heals.

Thank God that you can endure their harassment without them coming from you.

They are evils arising from ignorance, just as blindness comes from the darkness.

You will not cure the madman's imbalance by beating him over the head, nor will you expel the criminality of the evildoer by cutting off his arms.

In the face of all the maladjustments of others, sympathize and help always.

Before all your neighbor's foolishness, sympathize and do your best.

We are all students of the school of life, and all susceptible to moral fall into error.

So, use mercy with others, and you will find mercy in others toward yourself.

70
Always Peaceful

*"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called
sons of God."
Jesus (Matthew, 5:9)*

No matter how much pain afflicts your soul, calm down in prayer and pacify the context of your challenges.

If someone hurts you, pacify them by excusing him.

If someone slanders you, pacify by serving.

If someone belittles you, pacify by understanding.

If someone irritates you, pacify them by silencing yourself.

Forgiveness and work, understanding, and humility are the inarticulate voices of your defense.

Blows and blows are wounds and more wounds.

Violence with violence adds up to madness.

Do not raise your arm to beat, nor open your mouth to humiliate.

In the face of every disturbance, be silent and wait, backing always.

Time seasons the green fruit changes the shape of the pond,
softens the rock, and covers the withered branch with new
flowers.

Censorship is an environment of gall.

Bitterness is the beginning of a curse.

Wherever you are, pacify.

Whatever the offense, pacify.

And you will finally realize that the peace of the world is
a gift from God, which starts with you.

71
Eyes

*"If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be
full of light."
Jesus (Matthew, 6:22)*

Eyes... Everyone's heritage.

But we find different eyes everywhere.

Evil eyes.

Eyes of cruelty.

Jealous eyes.

Hurting eyes.

Desperate eyes.

Distrustful eyes.

Eyes of addiction.

Disturbing eyes.

Eyes attentive to other people's evils.

Eyes that discourage good works.

Eyes of irritation.

Cold eyes.

However, if you aspire to ennoble the resources of vision, love and cooperate, learn and forgive always, and you shall keep with you the "good eyes", to which the Christ of God referred. Thence, you will instill in your spirit the high comprehension capable of propelling you to the glory of Eternal Light.

72
Ears

**"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."
Jesus - (Matthew - 11:15)**

Ears... Everyone has them.

We find, however, superficial ears everywhere.

Ears that only register sounds.

Ears that cling to scandalous news.

Ears devoted to disturbing rumors.

Ears of inferior proposals.

Ears devoted only to conventions.

Party ears.

Gossip ears.

Ears of pessimism.

Ears that stick to the walls.

Ears that complicate lives.

If you wish to sublimate the possibilities of your soul acoustics, you must study and consider; ponder and comfort fraternally, and you will attain the "hearing ears", to which reported Jesus. You will create in yourself the understanding for the assimilation of the Eternal Wisdom.

73
Excess

*"For what doth it profits a man, to gain the whole world,
and forfeit his life?"
Jesus (Mark, 8:36)*

As long as the creature remains in the earthly body, it is natural that it should be concerned with the problem of its maintenance.

Vigilance does not exclude precaution.

But we cannot forget that the attachment to superfluous things will always be an introduction to madness.

Everything that man accumulates abusively in the external field is a reason for affliction or uselessness.

Physical goods without profit are dark lures that attract envy and discord.

Stored food constitutes values on the way to rot.

Clothes in disuse are asylum for moths.

Too many amassed resources constitute temptations for the descendants.

Every excess is a mental wall isolating those who create it in prisons of pride, selfishness, vanity, and lie.

Observe, then, the material you pile up.

Everything that is outside you, represents the path on which you walk.

Clinging to ephemeral things is clinging to illusion.

But all the spiritual goods you gather within yourself, such as virtue and education, are inalienable merits to shine with you, here or elsewhere, as sublimation to eternal life.

74
Our Cross

*"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me."
Jesus (Mark, 8:34)*

No one should complain needlessly.

Pain is a process.

Perfection is the end.

So, walkers of evolution or redemption, each one has his cross.

One aims, the other should.

And to accomplish or to compensate, life asks for a price.

No one conquers something without making some effort, and no one redeems this or that debt without suffering.

While the individual is unaware of his responsibility, he moves through the world as a semi-rational being, piling up problems in his head.

Despite that, when he wakes up to the need for peace with himself, he immediately discovers the cross that is his improvement process.

Incarnate and disincarnate spirits, yoked to Earth, are all bound to the same imposition of progress and redemption.

In the material circle, the cross is the organic difficulty, the social step, the unhappy relative..

On the spiritual dimension, it is the shame before the intimate defect that has not been overcome, the expiation of guilt, the unpaid debt..

Thus, let us have the indispensable courage to follow the Lord in our eagerness for resurrection and victory.

Still, for this, let us not forget that we will have to abandon the encroaching selfishness and take up our cross.

75
Let Us Release

*"Jesus saith unto them: Lose him, and let him go."
Jesus (John.11:44)*

It is worth thinking that Jesus does not just pluck Lazarus from the shadow of the tomb.

As he brings him back to life, he asks that he be restored to freedom.

"Untie him and let him go" - says the Lord.

The redeemed companion should be free to attend to his own experiences.

In the world of our soul, we also have those who fall into the pit of denial.

Hence, some individuals who tear apart our ideals, the neighbor who drags us to disillusionment, those who mock our hopes, and those who cast us into abandonment resemble the dead in the crypt of our agonized memories. Remembering them is like reviving old ulcers. However, to get rid of such anguish, it is imperative to remove them from our hearts and return them to the sun of existence.

Yet, this gesture of liberation is not enough for us. We ought to assist them, to unfetter themselves.

Do not condemn them, nor sour their feelings, but rather exonerate them from all commitment, adjusting them to themselves.

Those whom we liberate from all obligation towards ourselves and hand over to the goodness of God return sooner to the light of understanding.

Therefore, if someone has fallen into the death of evil in front of you, help him to return to the good; yet, in addition, you should also untie him from any constraint and let him go.

76
Let Us Relieve

*And with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured
unto you.
Jesus (Matthew, 7:2)*

Surely you will see, everywhere, disagreements, misunderstandings, maladjustments, discord...

Close to your heart, you will find those who seem to reside in different moral regions. Beloved ones desert the righteous path; dear friends embrace dangerous experiences.

How can we back those who seem to be plunged into error?

Censuring them is bringing more distance. Despising them means losing them.

We must know how to back them up through effective and constant good.

To begin, let us feel in their position, sharing their problems.

Let us situate ourselves at the feet of the problems they are living and turn to the practice of silent service.

If an opportunity arises, let us do something to show them our appreciation.

Let us keep them all, in our thoughts, in vibrations of understanding and affection.

In words, let us involve them in the blessing of the noble verb.

In attitudes, let us support them as much as possible.

In any and every action, strengthening them for the good is our crucial duty.

Before those who seem bewildered, extend your heart and hands to cooperate. We are all on the course of evolution, and we must be attentive to Jesus' words in this regard, **"With the measure with which we have measured, we will be measured."**

77
If You Seek the Best

*"And let patience have [its] perfect work, so that ye may
be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.
(James, 1:4)*

Patience stands at the base of all good works.

You will cherish a sublime ideal; yet, if you do not have the patience to materialize it...

You will dream of fulfilling a lofty mission; still, if you do not have the patience to suffer it...

You will raise a precious institution; however, if you do not have the patience to sustain it...

You want happiness at home; nonetheless, if you do not have the patience to build it...

You plan a beautiful future for your son, but if you do not have the patience to educate him...

You aspire to exert a determinate profession, though, if you do not have the patience to learn it...

Without patience, the highest projects result in frustration.

Observe the orchardist who desires the fruit on the tree.

One must have the patience to prepare the field. Next, the patience to plant, cultivate, defend, help, and wait for the ripe harvest.

Time does not respect the buildings it did not help to make. If you seek the best, do not despise the patience to work, so the best may find and illuminate you.

In any route, without perfect patience, there is no possibility of perfection.

Constantly Improving

"Now we pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we may appear approved, but that ye may do that which is honorable."

Paul (II Corinthians, 13:7)

You cannot guarantee the world's happiness, of course, as it is constantly under the impact of the evolutionary striving that guides its march. Still, no one is prevented from cultivating the tract of land where he lives, taking care of a friendly tree, or nurturing a flower.

Surely, you cannot heal the so-called social wounds, undesirable but understandable in a collectivity of imperfect spirits, all still in a regimen of correction and improvement. Nevertheless, nobody is forbidden to proceed honestly and help their brothers with the moral strength of a good example.

Undoubtedly, you have no conditions to help all the sick who cry on Earth, but no one is so disabled that cannot alleviate the trials of a friend or a neighbor, providing them with the certainty that love has not disappeared from human ways.

Naturally, you have no conditions to solve all the difficulties of the family in which you were born; nonetheless, no one is forbidden to help a less happy

relative or to cooperate in the tranquility that must rule home.

Do not turn away from the culture of goodness, by arguing that you can accomplish nothing against the dominion of the tribulations that plow the Planet.

The Lord has never asked the impossible of us, nor has he ever demanded from the fallible creatures, spectacles of compulsory greatness.

Although there are numerous deserts, the little fountain flows, confidently, fertilizing the land on which it transits.

We cannot correct all the mistakes and extinguish all the afflictions that emerge in the ways of existence, but we can all go through the day-to-day, improving life and dignifying it, in us and around us.

Let Us Pacify

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons
of God.*

Jesus (Matthew, 5:9)

There is no use in extending nervous warfare.

Contradiction will wait for you in every corner, since peace is the foundation of the Law of God.

Observe the catastrophes passing by.

Time and again, man makes himself the wolf of man, destroying the earthly field. Yet, God, in silence, determines that the grass covers the ground again, placing the flower on the grass and forming the fruit in the body of the flower itself.

Volcanoes ruin vast regions, but God restores the torn landscapes.

Tsunamis sweep away cities, but God shows them another place and they resurface more beautifully.

Earthquakes bring calamities here and there, but God readjusts the physiognomy of the Globe.

Strange diseases devastate entire populations, but God inspires the minds of selfless scientists and wipes out epidemics.

From time to time, storms shake large swaths of the Earth; still God, through the forces of Nature, rebalances everything.

Do not surrender to pessimism under any circumstances.

Everything before you now may be affliction and upheaval; notwithstanding, reassure the life around you as much as you can, once peace will come by the hands of God.

Let Us Bless

*For, he that would love life, and see good days, let him
refrain his tongue from evil.*

Peter (I Peter, 3:10)

There is no point in condemning. The rebuttal may come today, in an unforeseen way, because mercy is the foundation of the law of God.

Note how often you have observed the invisible help to what was considered an irremediable evil.

You have seen the seriously ill suddenly return to health when the patient was already sentenced to death.

You have known evildoers transformed into good men, when they seemed sunk into delinquency.,

You have undergone complex problems that found an improvised equation when they seemed insoluble.

You cried over disturbing situations that took a saving turn when everything led you to believe in tragedy.

Whatever the trials are underway, curb your tongue, so it does not curse. You may be seeing everything around you

through the prism of despair. In the meantime, be calm and wait, confident; since if the Mercy of God is not yet reaching the situation, it is on the way.

81
Proceeding

"Press on toward the goal"
Paul (Philippians 3:14)

You encounter the bitter semblance of loneliness at the moment when circumstances compel you to leave the known.

You suppose the construction of your entire existence collapses upon yourself, as if the absence of the familiar structure tore the picture of your soul.

Dear hearts, drawn to other paths, have abandoned your ideals; beloved ones have left you.

You have retired from a work of many years, or death has taken away the smile of your dearest companions.

Sometimes you feel you are leaving behind everything that seems most valuable to you, but this is no longer true.

Just journey boldly forward, and seek to express yourself in new ways. You will recognize that love and work are more beautiful on your path:

Then, you will realize that you can add new portions of joy to the happiness of those you love most, and can serve with a better understanding of the aspirations that involve your march.

If life presents you with a sad face of loneliness, remember your immortality and do not stop yourself.

The boy leaves childhood to enter youth; the young man leaves youth to enter maturity; the adult leaves maturity to enter old age, and the elderly ones leave extreme old age to enter the spiritual world. Not as one who loses the acquired values, but instead, as someone going on towards the target with which God's Laws mark out each one of us..

Your Work

“But let each man prove his work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor.”

Paul (Galatians, 6:4.)

Even if you feel you are in a place unsuited to your abilities, and your activities seem unimportant, remember that the Law of the Lord places you presently in a condition where you can produce better and learn with more security.

You have, thence, your own particular and non-transferable work in the execution of the universal plan of God.

Then, do not aspire to assume immediately the responsibilities of those exposed to the crowd, under the pretext of carrying out a special mandate before Divine Providence.

The task that is up to you, be it on the last steps or in the darkest planes of home, is of paramount importance in the designs of the Lord.

The sheet of paper that falls from your hands may be the one on which will be written words destined to the consolation of an entire community, and the child that forces you to heavy sleepless nights may bring with

himself the work of providing help to a whole people. The spring you protect, on many occasions, will be the food for thousands of creatures, and the tree you plant will perhaps give you, later the medicine you need.

Your work today is the service the Lord has given you to perform now. Do it the best way you can.

Remember that, despite the divine greatness of our Divine Master, he was, one day, on Earth, a humble child, constituting a work of self-denial and love for the arms of a poor mother, temporarily confined to the stable, with no comfort and no home.

Divine Presence

"And I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Jesus (Matthew, 28:20)

Religious pastors of the various Christian temples declare, every day and everywhere, that Jesus is with the world leaders, with the scientists of the Earth, the popular mind conductors, and all lines of civilization.

Yet, we see the majority of the leaders and led people of the world in open discord, exhibiting here and there, conflicts of blood and hatred.

Everything seems to belie the optimistic mouths of preachers; such is the gale of discord that blows from all directions.

The expositors of the Gospel, however, maintain mathematical precision in their affirmations.

Jesus did not make broken promises...

He will be with all the hearts on Earth, always and always: Nevertheless, the Spiritist Doctrine, supplementing the notes on the Testament of Christ, comes to explain, without a doubt, that the Master is and will be with all Humanity.

Though, we will only know the visible and immediate beneficial fruit of his sublime presence in the earthly creature, of this or that position, who is also with him.

84
Divine Gifts

*"For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness, but power and
love and discipline."
Paul - (II Timothy, 1:7.)*

It was not the Heavenly Father who instilled in us the spirit of fear. Instead of this, He has widely conferred to us the strength of courage, love, and moderation.

Thus, we are all endowed with resources to develop, to infinity, the divine gifts of strength, that is moral value, Love that is permanent service in the good, and the moderation that defines balance.

Notwithstanding, like the worker who runs away from the machine, believing he will have unpunished the salary without its sweat, we desert responsibility, supposing we will obtain the benefits of life unharmed, without the effort of our improvement.

The worker, under these circumstances, gains material advantages; still, intimately, he remains at the level of incompetence; when in a similar attitude, he may enjoy the considerations of the earthly plane, but inwardly he remains in the shadow of ignorance.

That is why we generate, to our detriment, the environment of fear, in which the monsters of selfishness, discord, despair, ignorance, and cruelty develop, as much

as the culture of various diseases proliferates in rottenness.

So, do not be lost, in the disquieting or destructive ideas of fear, capable of operating the ruin of the best impulses. If you use the power of courage, love, and moderation ~ talents the Lord has offered for your amelioration ~ you will go forward, on Earth and beyond it, with the light of your heart and the peace of your conscience.

If You Aspire to Serve

“For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.”

Paul (Philippians, 4:11)

You declare to be in the vehement purpose of serving; still, for such, you present several clauses.

You have your resources, although humble, for the tasks of material assistance; nevertheless, you wait for the money from others.

You have vast possibilities to teach those in need of instruction, but you wait for an official title that may never arrive.

You show free feet and arms that guarantee you help the brothers in anguish. Despite that, you expect companions who will probably never decide to participate in the fraternal work.

You relate multiple talents to fulfill a blessed mission of pure love among men. However, you wait in the family for the ideal companion.

If you have awakened to the cooperation with Jesus, remember Paul's affirmation: **“I have learned to be content with what I have.”**

When the apostle wrote this confession, he was in prison in Rome.

Around him was the painful atmosphere of the prison. Soulless guards; unhappy companions; curses, and swearing. Generally, no bread on the table, no pure water, no consolation, no friendly voices...

Nevertheless, instead of becoming discouraged, the pioneer of the Gospel gives life and strength, serenity, and good cheer to himself.

If you aspire to serve others, serving yourself, in the kingdom of the Spirit, do not waste time on useless expectations, since everyone who feels and acts with Christ lives satisfied and strains to perfect themselves, improving their life with what they have.

86
Do Not Fear

"In nothing be anxious."
Paul (Philippians 4:6)

The Apostle Paul's observation is essential for everyday life.

Let us not be anxious about anything.

In truth, worry is the triggering factor for numerous calamities.

Most of the time, it is present in the miscalculation that compromises the construction; in the inadequate dosage of medicine that turns into poison, in an unfortunate accident, or a disaster on the street.

Usually, it is a thorn in the household, or a caustic point of view; an ember on the road or a stone in the profession.

Due to affliction, we often utter unreasonable expressions and articulate false judgment about others.

With it, we generate sickly worries and ruin our course.

Yet, under the pretext of abolishing it, we must not fall into laziness.

Numerous people, arguing to avoid restlessness, wallow in

deplorable comfort, alleging that they flee from working to avoid affliction.

But let us understand, in the true sense, Paul's judicious recommendation.

He, who said "**do not be anxious about anything**" was never idle.

Verbal Nourishment

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits...

(James, 3:17.)

You will find the brilliant phrase coming from everywhere.

Emeritus scientists use it to articulate the interpretations that come to their mind; various philosophers use it to exalt the principles they espouse; sophists of all origins use it to express their ideas; countless artists take possession of it to color the creations that flow from their souls. Though, we must receive it within the guidelines of just discernment.

There are secure and exquisite phrases, hiding repellent images, just as there are fabrics of gold and pearls, hiding the dunghill.

Examine the field that provides you with verbal nourishment.

Be it in the writing of skillful hands or the speech of distinguished persons, be alert to what you gather.

Inspiration from High is born in the fountain of pure feelings.

Seek the presence of peace through balance and affability towards all. It manifests itself in the vehicle of fraternal

understanding, expressing mercy, and producing good fruits wherever it is.

Do not be deceived by precious speeches, frequently devoid of any constructive message.

You may not be able to identify promptly the speaker intentions. Nevertheless, you can observe the positive results of each speaker's action. And by the fruits that hang on the tree of life of each one, you know perfectly well the choice that suits you.

88
Clay Pots

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves."

Paul - (II Corinthians, 4:7)

Do not shy away from passing on the gifts of the Gospel.

If you have fallen, get up and extend your hands, building the best.

If you were in error until yesterday, reconsider the thoughtless gesture, and be useful to your fellows from now on.

If you are ill, remain confident by encouraging and enlightening those who hear your word.

If you are tired, rebuild your strength in faith and keep always cooperating.

If you have been slandered, forgive and forget the blow, seeking to serve.

If somebody belittled you, do not hurt anyone, and endeavor to be helpful.

Persecuted, forget the evil, and do all the good you can.

Insulted, forget every offense and help without sorrow.

Amid all the weaknesses and vicissitudes that surround our spirits, let us follow the apostle Paul, who stated that we possess the knowledge of the truth and the flame of love, as one who carries treasure in earthen vessels, so the excellence of virtue shines forth by God's light and not ours.

Unforgettable Warning

"What [is that] to thee? Follow thou me..."

Jesus - (John, 21:22)

Yes, you have undergone the disappointments you did not expect. Many of the friends who urged you to the right road became entangled in webs of disturbance, as if petrified in indifference.

Comrades we thought were living standards on the paths of truth surrendered to blatant lies. Brothers who promised us unbreakable fidelity left us alone at the first difficulty. Relatives who owed us protection and respect sought fields of shadow and vice, antagonizing our ideals.

And stumbles multiply, and our path is obstructed. Stimuli have been converted into sarcasm. Those who gave us hope now provide us with denial. Those who helped us yesterday now unhelp us.

Hands that threw flowers of applause now rain upon us the splinters of incomprehension.

Alone, yes...

Many times, we find ourselves, in this way, between expectation and loneliness. Our first impulse is to

complain about what we think is our right; however, looking for the word of the gospel, we find the unforgettable warning from the Lord: **What do you care? You follow me.**"

Constantly Renewing

"And that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Paul - (Ephesians, 4:23)

Improvement for the good is a requirement of the Law.

On many occasions, you claim to be tired, without any resources to undertake your transformation.

You feel sick, incapable...

You declare to be unable, half-dead.

Yet now, as centuries ago, nature in everything is sublime rebirth.

The days are renewed.

The seasons are renewed.

Old cut trees lay down new sprout branches.

Ancient stones give different forms through the services of evolution.

In the very chemistry of the body you temporarily live, renovation is constant.

The air you breathe is refreshed.

The sustenance with which you feed yourself is modified.

The cellular organization you rely on is reinvigorated.

The cleanliness that nourishes your health is redone.

Therefore, let your emotion and idea be transfigured to do what is best.

Study, reason, observe and reflect.

Later, it is clear that reincarnation will lead you to other challenges and teachings.

Still, remain convinced that every noble lesson learned today, no matter how obscure or simple it may be, will always be a comfort to smile at you tomorrow.

Esteem

"Giving thanks always for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul - (Ephesians, 5:20)

The Universe is a stream of love in ceaseless motion.

Do not interrupt its vibrations' flow.

In this sense, remember that no one is so burdened by duties that he cannot, from time to time, raise his eyes or say a phrase as a sign of gratitude.

Consider your works of obligation as sacred, but do not forget the minute of dedication to others.

Parents do not discuss your affection; yet, they will multiply their strength with your gesture of understanding.

The children take note of your kindness; yet, they will experience new encouragement from your generous smile.

Your colleagues know your solidarity, but they will be blessed with renewing energy when they see the reaffirmation of your spontaneity.

The companions recognize your friendship, but they will be filled with holy stimuli when they hear your fraternal message.

No one can evaluate the importance of small donations.

A prayer, an affectionate greeting, a flower, or a friendly note can extinguish a long fire of discord or dispel rocks of shadow.

We are not referring here to praise, which spoils it, or flattery, which poisons it. We talk about friendship and gratitude, which value the work and nourish the good.

No matter how hard the road can be, learn to smile and bless, so joy may be ahead, encouraging the hearts and hands that operate the expansion of the Infinite Goodness.

God, Himself is never so excessively busy that He does not remember to sustain the Sun, to warm, in his name, the last worm, in the last abyssal recesses.

Solidarity

*"Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them
That weep."*

Paul - (Romans, 12:15)

On Earth, it is easier to weep with those who weep.

In many circumstances, the sorrows of others serve as consolation for ours.

Those who carry enormous burdens encourage us to bear the light ones.

In some disaster that may have befallen, we bow down in sympathy to the victims. We have the illusion of being graced by God in the case. As if the responsibility of the moratoria and loans granted to us by Divine Mercy, within the Law, was for us a regime of favoritism and exception.

Assisting those who are in worse trials than ours is a sublime charity.

Yet, we must recognize that to counsel patience to those who weep, in the position of calm superiors, is the same as speaking on the sidelines of a problem, without being in the problem.

By this, we do not mean to diminish the value of beneficence.

Without it, our hands would become claws of usury, and selfishness would turn the Earth into a madhouse.

We simply wish to state that it is easier to weep with those who weep than rejoice with those who rejoice.

Helping with the bread or joy that we have leftover, is an act that we can perform without difficulty, whereas, to rejoice with the gladness of others, with no hint of envy or spite, we must carry enough pure love in our hearts.

Service and Envy

"...Love envieth not..."

Paul - (I Corinthians, 13:4)

Several companions speak of their willingness to help in the name of charity; nevertheless, to do so, they demand the resources that belong to others.

They want to help the needy...

But they say they expect the same salary as the colleague who took charge of them, in the work organization.

They declare that they are inclined to help unprotected children...

They claim, though, that they will only take the initiative when they have a house similar to that of their more prosperous friend.

They affirm their desire to collaborate in the construction of faith, loving and enlightening of those who suffer...

They expose their intention to write, to spread the spiritual light... Despite that, they will only become active when they have the competence of those who have already spent a large part of their lives structuring the written word.

If you aspire to serve the good, do not stop yourself in expectant greed, asking for the conquest of others to come to your hands.

Charity is not envious.

Let us do our part.

Beneficence and Patience

"Love suffereth long, [and] is kind."

(I Corinthians, 13:4)

Beneficence, yes, for everyone:

Division of the meal.

Clothes to the naked.

Medicine for the sick.

Asylum for wandering homeless people.

Child protection for homeless kids.

Aid to the elderly in disablement.

Help to the widows.

Refuge for the indigents.

Consolation to the sorrowful.

Nonetheless, it is necessary to extend kindness to other sectors, as well:

Understanding in the family.

Work without complaint.

Cooperation without quarrels.

Giving attention to those who speak, even when without any constructive purpose.

Respect for the problems of others.

Serenity before provocations.

Tolerance regarding others' ideas.

Kindness on the street.

Charitable work can operate wonders, raising generosity and conquering gratitude.

Though, in the name of charity, all beneficence cannot live without the patience to be complete.

Learning

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves."

Whenever circumstances lead you to hear the truths of the Gospel, do not admit that chance is presiding over similar events. Occult forces will be triggering the opportunity for you to inform yourself about your life.

Hence, do not be inattentive once, soon, you will be naturally called by life to testify.

Observe the school and the disciplines in which certain professionals are trained.

- Students of Medicine listen to lessons to cure the sick or to help them;
- Students of Engineering listen to teachings to apply them to the technique of construction on the earth plane;
- Accountants spend time to guarantee the sustenance of commerce in the art of accounting;
- Weavers assimilate principles around determinate machines to serve, opportunely, the thread industry...

Any noble study is a priceless acquisition, but if it dwells stagnantly in the soul of the one who learns, it resembles hidden bread to those who cry with hunger.

Listen to the precepts of Superior Spirituality, but act in conformity with them, since if we know and do not do what good teaches us, then it would be better not to know, so as not to be taxed with higher suffering rates, in grids of guilt.

In Words

*"Murmur not, brethren, one against another, so that ye be not judged."
(James, 5:9)*

Dipping the divine gift of the word into the muddy vessel of the complaint is like igniting a precious lamp in the contents of the wastebasket.

Do not turn the phrase into the mud over open sores. You can mobilize the wonder of the verb to readjust the good without the need to extend the evil.

Lift the hope of those who have been disheartened in the combat of life; exalt the excellence of love before those who are intoxicated by hate. Praise the perspectives of faith, besides those who cry in disenchantment.

Point out the noble qualities of the friend who has fallen into devaluation.

Highlight the possibilities of helping where others only find motives for censure.

Unfold restorative work, where pessimism condemns.

Search for the better side of situations, so the best can be done.

And when moral obstacles loom, as if evil were about to triumph definitively, if you cannot say something in praise of goodness, be silent and pray.

Think about the good when you cannot speak of it.

The seed changes and renovates the earth.

The silent drop of sedative soothes the martyred body.

Never complain about others, since when you deplore someone, you must consult yourself to know if, in someone's place, we would not be doing this or that in a worse way.

Father and Friend

"And he arose, and went to his father: and when he was yet a great way off, the father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

Jesus (Lucas, 15:20.)

It is possible that this or that lack shadows your heart, compelling you to discouragement.

You long to breathe pure faith, to give yourself to the work of goodness; however, you bring remorse and sadness.

You have dissipated the forces of life, misplaced sanctifying vows, erred, and fallen into denial, like a traveler who has lost the light.

Meanwhile, remember Divine Providence getting you back on your feet.

God's love never fails.

For every wound, there will be an adequate remedy.

For every imbalance, there will be a readjustment.

Remember the teaching of the Christ, enunciating the return of the prodigal son.

They did not meet at home, with rowdiness and humiliation for the disaffected boy. Seeing him on his way back, and while he was still far away, the father was moved

with intimate compassion and, running, threw himself on his neck and kissed him. The father did not demand excuses, did not ask for justifications, nor conditions of any kind to extend his arms; he only waited for his son to get up and wish him the warmth of his heart.

Son and Censor

"But he answered and said to his father, 'Behold, I have served you for so many years, without ever transgressing your commandment, and you have never given me a young goat to rejoice with my friends...'"

Jesus (Luke, 15:29.)

In the parable of the prodigal son, we find not only the brother who returns experienced and repentant back home. We also see the correct but selfish brother mulling over reproaches and complaints.

He observes the paternal joy, embracing the recovered brother; however, he criticizes and confronts him. He behaves like one who regrets the duty done; he acts like a man who despises his nobility.

He is faithful to his father's services. Though, he criticizes his father's actions.

He works with him; however, he longs to enslave the father to his whims.

He serves his interests, watching over bread and silver.

He keeps loyalty, immersing himself in the idea of evidence and inheritance.

If the paternal heart shows the greatness of feeling, it explodes in jealousy and complaints. If he forgives and

helps, he interposes the merit he thinks to possess, trying to limit the father's kindness.

He loses himself in a mixture of cruelty and affection, shadow and light.

He is fair and unfair, tender and aggressive, companion and censor.

He wants his father only for himself, the farm and the law, balance, and tranquility, all for himself alone.

On the path of faith, analyze your attitude as well.

If you feel connected to the Superior Sphere by your acts and directives, words, and thoughts, do not imprison yourself in the vanity of being good. Do not forget, under any circumstances, that God is the Father of all, and if he has helped you to be with Him, it is for you to be with him by helping others.

Complaints

To him therefore that knoweth to do good and doeth it

Not, to him it is sin.

(James, 4:17)

You condemn with great fanfare those who have burdened themselves with the crimes of theft; however, if you uselessly accumulate the resources necessary for your neighbor's support, you cannot plead innocence.

You accuse those who have descended into criminality, but if you do nothing for the extinction of delinquency, you have no right to argue.

You point out the selfishness of those who govern; nevertheless, if you dwell on the selfishness of those who are governed, then it is just vain talk.

You criticize all those who inefficiently instruct their brothers and sisters; yet, if you have the competence and do not plant education, you will not be at peace with yourself.

You cry out against those companions you categorize as rebels and addicts when you note their presence in charity relief work. Notwithstanding, if you feel virtuous and do not raise a straw in favor of those who suffer, the sentences you utter will be nothing but injustice.

Enter into the work of the soul and heart, so you can comment on it.

No one can demand from others what he does not give off himself.

Those who know what they should do, and do not do, are deserters from their duties falling into regrettable omission, and if they get in the way of those who try to do it, they will certainly respond with double obligations for what they do not do.

100
Whimpers

*“Murmur not, brethren, one against another,
That ye be.”
(James, 5:9)*

Every time our lips give in to the desire to complain, we are frequently simply judging our own lives.

So, observe yourself and let your conscience watch your word.

If you have seen one person at fault against another, do not exaggerate his guilt by remembering how often you have failed equally against your neighbor.

And just as you thanked those who forgave your faults, trusting that you would improve with time, support also the brother who has fallen into error, through your fraternal optimism, so that he will get up and bless you.

If a partner has offended you, do not surrender to unreasonable reactions, thinking about the occasions when you will also hurt your companions.

And just as you rejoiced before those who forgot your blows, in the certainty that you would reconsider your attitude, help also the friend who caused you pain, through your forgetting all evil, so he may recover and bless you with the greatness of spirit.

In every conversation in which we are led to examine the behavior of our companions subjected to the censure by others, let us search our inner self, concluding whether we would not have committed equal or worse errors in their place. And, in all circumstances, let us not forget that we are automatically summoning ourselves to live at a higher level and do better.

101

Accordingly

*"Who will render to every man according to his
Works"
(Romans 2:6)*

Life, expressing the creator's designs, will assume the attitudes you do toward it.

Honor the titles you seek to honor.

Give correct treatment to the right conduct.

Dignity to what you dignify.

Experience in the guideline of your choice.

Instruction at the level you place yourself.

Trust in the degree of your faith.

Distinction in what you distinguish yourself.

Respect in all that makes you respectable.

A version of this or that, according to your desires.

Neatness in what you clean.

It also means that, whatever the position you occupy, you have the answer from Life in the life you seek.

That is how the pain or joy, peace or disquiet, worthiness or worthlessness, shadow or light on our path will always be moral wages by what we do.

In the Accounts

*"So, then each one of us shall give an account of himself to
God."*

Paul - (Romans, 14:12)

Benefactors guarantee.

Instructors educate.

Pastors guide.

Friends support.

Companions encourage.

Adversaries warn.

Relationships help.

Prayers illuminate.

Lessons prepare.

Difficulties train.

Tests define.

Pains correct.

Struggles renew.

Problems propose.

Solutions indicate.

Attitudes reveal.

Tears purify.

Experiences mark.

Nonetheless, in conformity with the word of the Apostle Paul, all creatures and situations, circumstances, and things have been arranged, in the accounts of the Law, **"So each one of us will give an account of himself to God."**

103
We Produce

*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear
Fruit of itself, except it, abide in the vine; so neither can
ye,
Except ye abide in me."
Jesus - (John, 15:4)*

We produce.

Everything that is something produces things.

Elements considered despicable are doing this or that.

Rocks produce roughness.

Thorns produce lacerations.

Mud produces dirt.

Hammer produces blows.

Though, if we produce for the good, these same resources in our hands are promoted to valuable instruments, once stones help in construction, spikes of a technical nature can collaborate in surgical service; properly treated mud is sowing soil and a controlled hammer is a helpful auxiliary.

Each creature, therefore, produces in compliance with the

agents by which it is inspired.

The most pitiable beings, even unwillingly, are always producing.

The delinquent produces unbalance.

The addict produces lawlessness.

The lazy person produces misery.

The pessimist produces discouragement.

Wherever you are, you are producing accordingly to the influences you are attached to.

Mechanically acting, upon all those attached to your way of living.

We all produce, inevitably.

Once learners of the Gospel, in the Spiritist-Christian school, let us remember, therefore, the lesson of Christ:
"I will remain with you if you remain in me."

104
We Exist

*"I came that they may have life, and may have [it]
abundantly."
Jesus (John, 10:10)*

We exist.

All the creatures come out of the Creator's Breath.

The stone exists, the plant exists, and the animal exists.

Souls exist in the varied steps of evolution.

In a spiritual sense, yet, living is something different from existing.

Life is the experience worthy of immortality.

A large number of people wear themselves out, losing health and possibilities in empty motion, when they do not plunge into the plots of evil, intertwining painful reincarnations.

Countless individuals destroy their brains, writing to no avail, when they do not express the thought to inspire denial and cruelty, entering into reparative suffering.

Numerous ones annihilate the hours, talking idly, when they do not use the verb to hurt and make others crazy,

acquiring scabrous debts.

Plenty of people ask for this or that concession to frustrate it in meaningless activities, when they do not use it to the detriment of others, creating tears that will take a long time to dry.

All these agents of inutility and delinquency exist just as we all do. So, watch what you do.

The cradle confers existence, but life is our work.

105
Let Us Be Careful

*"If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that."
(James, 4:15)*

Act towards the social and environmental well-being, aware that only the good holds enough strength for peace and sustenance.

Moreover, if superior knowledge already enlightens your spirit, you do not ignore that all our accomplishments are subordinate to the Divine Supervision.

The human being has free will to create destiny, but each individual, on this or that plane of existence, acts in a determined field of time.

Tyrants and saints, evildoers, and heroes always reach a limit of the path where the Superior World imposes on them the pause of examination.

All the prominent figures of yesterday and all the great personalities on Earth today have known and will know the moment when life warns them: "Not beyond".

So, form your action plans, use your intelligence, manage authority, wedge your words, mobilize relationships, live your affective ties, apply for money, develop work, and mark your presence wherever you are, promoting the good of all.

Whether we believe it or not; accept the truth or refuse it,
whether we make mistakes to learn or get it right to
elevate, our task will only reach as far as the Lord allows.

Let Us Trust by Serving

*"Even so faith, if it has not worked then it is dead in itself."
(James, 2:17)*

You assure the merit of the seed by valuing its qualities, but if someone flees from planting it, all your verbal efforts will have been in vain.

You boast of possessing exquisite artistic talents; however, if you do not work to express them, you will fatally descend to ridicule before those who listen to you.

You sketch an exquisite project for the edification of a large building; yet, if you do not promote the construction, your plans, no matter how beautiful, will be relegated to mold.

You fully trust the creditor who has lent you some resources; though, if you do not pay the debt, you will be driven into insolvency.

You preach the advantages of a determinate machine, but if no one tries out the device, no matter how precious, it will be forgotten as a useless piece of junk.

So, also in matters of the soul. We indeed revere Divine Providence, place our hope in Christ, admire virtue and believe in the power of good; still, if we do nothing in the sphere of good works, our faith may be vigorous and resplendent, but it is of no use.

Compassion at Home

*“Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their household, has denied the faith.”
(I Timothy, 5:8)*

There are many of them.

They unload a moving message in assemblies, exhorting people to compassion; they embroider concepts and citations, so gentleness be remembered; however, in the domestic institute, they are executioners with smiles on the lips.

They write worthy pages in honor of virtue, touching multitudes, but they do not engrave the slightest kindness in the hearts that surround them within the family walls.

They promote subscriptions for public aid to help the victims of calamities that have occurred on other continents, transforming themselves into holders of great benevolence; nonetheless, they deny a simple glance of affection to the servant that lays the table for them.

They invite the community to the traces of economic heroism in the raising of shelters and hospitals, disputing advertising credits around their name; nevertheless, they do not hesitate to export, in the direction of the asylum, the less fortunate grandfather that the ordeal exposes to expiation.

We will not be the ones to blame them for such a procedure.

Every crumb of love is registered in the law, in favor of the one who issues it.

It is better to do good to those who live far away than to do no good at all.

Let us help, thus, others as much as we can; though, let us be equally good to those who breathe the same air as us.

Since we are debtors of many centuries, we have at home, at work, on the way, in the ideal, or with relatives, our main witnesses of discharge.

Peace at Home

*“.. When you enter a house, first say, Peace to this house.”
Jesus (Luke, 10:5)*

You buy bread, clothing, shoes, and medicine on Earth, but not peace.

Money will give you residence and comfort, except the peace of mind.

That is why Jesus recommends that, first of all, when entering a house, we should say: *“Peace be upon this house”*.

The lesson expresses a strong appeal for tolerance and understanding.

At the threshold of the domestic nest, anoint yourself with understanding and patience, so you do not penetrate the atmosphere of your place in the guise of a familiar enemy. If someone is out of the desired path, or if you are unhappy with your home arrangements, mobilize kindness and cooperation, so the evil is reduced. If problems afflict you or remarks humiliate you, silence your annoyances, limiting worries.

Receive the meal as a divine blessing.

Use doors and windows without brutal gestures.

Do not move objects by force.

Avoid inconvenient shouting.

Cultivate gentleness.

Some say that the home is the place to let off steam. The place where one leaves the burden. We recognize that, but this is not a reason for the house to become a place where the creature becomes wildered.

Let us pacify our household and other environments we habit, so the others' areas are pacified too.

We all long for peace in the world; notwithstanding, it is imperative not to forget that peace in the world begins with us.

In the Tongue Sphere

*“Whoever would love life and see good days, must keep
his tongue from evil.”
Peter (I Peter, 3:10)*

Reflect on the good you hope for in the words of others, so your word does not become an agent of evil.

When in wanton of this or that cooperation, you thank the companion who endorses your requests with notes of sympathy.

In the moment of error, when many people smear you for lack of vigilance, you happily hear the sentence of understanding of the brother who justifies or excuses you.

When you have a disenchanted spirit, in the face of the trials that come in droves in each day's challenges, you take for a resource from Heaven the indication of those who recommend patience to you.

With a heart bound to embarrassing attitudes, you observe that your anxiety is relieved before the comforting reference of those who offer you backing and comprehension.

Amidst bitter difficulties, in the face of despair and complaints that escape your mouth, you bless the support of those who calm you, using phrases of tolerance.

Whenever you are about to complicate problems or sour someone's spirits through the word, remember the verbal support you need through the brothers in Christ.

If we aspire to enjoy the treasures of life and time, let us apply the golden rule in the realm of our language.

Let us make sound into other people's ears the tranquility that we aspire to hear, and let us say about others what we want others to say about us.

In the Affection Field

"A man reaps what he sows."

Paul (Galatians, 6:7)

Usually, we yearn for different and better treatment from those around us.

We long for an affection that will:

- . Understand our innermost intents;
- . Remain unchanged whatever the circumstances;
- . Listen to us without complaining in the hardship moments;
- . Overlooks our faults;
- . Not demand from us tributes of affection;
- . Not ask for taxes of gratitude;
- . Encourage and sustain us on awful days;
- . And share our joy and happiness in hours of blue skies.

We sigh for integral understanding and perfect friendship but, if we ask for affections marked by similar values, we must begin to be that ideal friend for others.

If we want to gather love and patience, in the manifestations of our neighbor, let us know how to distribute them to all those who share our march.

Kindness brings kindness. Abnegation begets abnegation.

The Apostle Paul's word is clear and frank in this sense:

"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Before the Enemies

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way...”

Jesus - (Matthew, 5:25)

In the face of enemies, let us preserve our serenity.

Reconciling one's adversaries, in the precepts of Christ, means reconciling, above all, their right to their own opinion.

Demanding the esteem or comprehension of others and being overly concerned with the derogatory remarks people make about us means wasting valuable time, when it is a healthy duty to guarantee ourselves the tranquility of conscience.

Harmonizing with all those who persecute or slander us means, thus, to take note of their noble qualities and sincerely desire that they triumph where they reproach us, learning to take advantage of their warnings and criticisms for what they show of helpful and constructive.

Let us learn to actively proceed on the route and in the work in which life has placed us.

Let us quit, thence, the presumption of living without adversaries who, in truth, always function as inspectors and examiners of our acts, but let us learn how to continue

in service, benefiting from their help, under peace in ourselves.

Not even Christ Himself escaped similar setbacks.

No one has been able to steal the Master's peace at any time; however, He, who exhorted us to love our enemies, was born, grew up, fought, served, and left the Earth, with them.

112
Before the Court

*“...Except your righteousness shall exceed the
righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no
case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*
Jesus (Matthew, 5:20)

Scribes and Pharisees took on the attitudes of the Old Law.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

Once attacked, they returned the insult. Persecuted, they revenged cruelly.

Yet, with Jesus, justice became the virtue of giving to each their due, in consonance with the best of their conscience.

He began by applying it to himself.

Entangled in darkness by Judas' imprudence, he does not endorse condemnation or retribution.

He blesses him and goes ahead, sure that the inconstant friend already carried within himself, enough misfortune to cry.

The Master has taught us to love without limits, but it does not mean that the disciples of the Gospel should walk without justice in the sphere of their challenges.

We must only consider that in Jesus' patterns, justice does not aggravate the debtor's problems, recommending recognizing, instead, the needs that commend them to compassion, without denying him the possibilities of readjustment.

Hence, if offenses fall on your soul, take pity on the aggressor and move on, giving the world and life the best of you.

To those who fall on the travel, the wound of the fall suffices; and to those who do evil, it is enough the fire of remorse to combust their heart.

Let Us Always be Grateful

"Giving thanks always to God for everything, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Paul (Ephesians 5:20)

Numerous people ask how they can thank God for the pains that shake their lives. However, a light reflection is enough for us to recognize the renewing function of suffering.

You have gone through a long period of illness, from which you can hardly recover, and if you listen to your conscience, you will realize that the physical illness was a valuable help to refrain you from throwing yourself into tremendous combats of spirit.

You have been robbed of the financial advantage that placed you at the forefront of your livelihood. If you think deeply on the matter, you will observe that the supposed humiliation has saved you from dangerous and devastating commitments.

You have lost material resources that would only have added unnecessary comfort to you, and if you give yourself a dispassionate examination of the case, you will verify that you have thrown away the golden weight of sumptuous ornaments that would make you, probably, the victim of criminal robberies.

You have bitterly endured the desertion of the friend in whose affection you placed the greatest hope, but if you analyze the fact, you will conclude that time has freed you from an improper tie, which would become, perhaps in the future, a heavy burden.

Do not trust in appearances.

Praise the blue sky that gives euphoria to your thoughts, but also be grateful for the cloud that guarantees you rain, which is the messenger of bread.

Even if you do not immediately understand the designs of Divine Providence, receive the ordeal as the best we deserve today, for the sake of tomorrow, and, even if painful tears wash all over your spirit, give thanks to God.

Fraternally Friends

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble."

Peter. (1 Peter, 3:8.)

There can be no doubt that experience has given you a different step in life interpretation.

You have matured your thinking, and you notice determinate aspects of reality that those around you still cannot point out.

You have studied, earning degrees that, for the moment, countless people do not have.

You have listened to the science and reached renovating visions, presently defending those who have not had the same opportunities as yours.

You traveled, noticing problems that several of your best friends are far from knowing.

You have suffered, learning lessons, for now, inapprehensible by companions settled in innocent deceptions of the rearguard.

You worked and acquired skills that your family members

will take a long time to attain.

Your position is unmistakable, as much as your neighbor's place is characteristically individual.

Though, whatever the condition you find yourself in, you can extend your arms, uniting yourself with your neighbor. You can reach out and come closer to your fellows through understanding and mutual aid.

The apostle does not say to us, "Be ye all of one mind," but rather, "**Be ye all fraternally united**". Therefore, the Gospel does not require us to be censors or slaves of each other, but rather exhorts us to be brothers and sisters.

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Firmly

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
Paul (I Corinthians, 15:58)

On the days of affliction and disenchantment, the practice of good works is similar to the traveler's march, under a storm alternating in fire and ice.

You possibly know days like these...

Disillusionment has reached your soul like a devastating hailstorm.

Slander beat your feelings like flaming embers.

Gratuitous persecutions have appeared, like streams of thick rushes, making it difficult for you to move.

Moral crises erupted from the road like flames, setting your refuge on fire.

It is as if all circumstances induced you to numbness and discouragement.

Sometimes, almost alone, you wonder about hopes, promises, dreams, and friends.

Still, persevere in the service and keep going on.

The companions who have exterminated noble intentions and edifying vows, as well as those who despised relevant projects and abandoned good works, will return, later, to the reconstructive labor, resuming the service in which they practiced the desertion.

No one rises without attending to the impositions of the ascent. Given this, every effort in the good, the minimum that it may be, will invariably result in favor of the one who performs it, for every action, for the general happiness is a contribution to the Divine Work.

Hence, even if all external events conspire against us, let us remain faithful to the Lord's work, extending the good to all around us, in the certainty that the work, in the name of the Lord, is not in vain.

Performing the Best

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”
Paul (Hebrews, 10:24)*

Some comrades deserted, with whom we counted on for support and encouragement to carry out the service that falls to us.

Certain friends have taken prominence in the interests of the world, and they are now undertaking great material businesses. Others have gained political influence and moved away from the path that we have trodden.

Still, others have acquired prolonged family commitments and lie seemingly chained to the domestic walls.

Some have public responsibilities and have temporarily distanced themselves from us.

We see those who have conquered professional titles after long studies threw into other bonds, compelled to centralize attention and energy in matters that escape us.

We point out those who have suffered minor disillusionments and have moved on to new spheres of activity.

We see those who say they need more money and leave in the direction of acquisitions no longer in harmony with our

way of thinking and being.

We embrace, touched, those who claim to be tangled by particular impositions, leaving us the conviviality for transferring their residence.

On many occasions, we are naturally induced to regret this or that change, pressed by our human weakness.

Though, in such cases, the word of the apostle Paul is a warning to optimism and serenity.

Whatever the position our companions are called to, let us consider one another as brothers and sisters in need of mutual assistance.

Then, let us encourage them to charity and good works, sustaining their spirits in their work and supporting, as far as we can, each of them in the execution of the best.

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Wait for God

*“It is the Father, who dwells in me, and who carries out His
work.”*
JESUS.

Let us seek the Divine Thought, active in all forms of life, working in the construction of good, even if the pictures of the human struggle seem tarnished by the shadow of evil.

Observe the fragile plant, often disfigured by the ravages of harmful insects, as it emerges from the seed.

It looks like excrescence in the clay that surrounds it; however, it contains within itself the potentialities that will transform it into a vigorous tree.

Look at the newborn child, many times touched by a disturbing illness. Crying in the maternal arms, it looks more like a poor human rag, guarded by death; nevertheless, it carries in its organic formation, apparently compromised, the strength that will transform it, perhaps, into a conductor of millions of people.

Do not judge suffering as evil.

The storm brings hygiene to the atmosphere. The body sickness is a renewal of the spirit. In every unpleasant success and every adverse condition of existence, calm

down, and await the intervention of Infinite Goodness.

Jesus said:

"But the Father, who is in me is the one who does the works."

The Creator is equally in Creation.

In the face of the fog, do not condemn the darkness.

Turn on the light of service and wait for God.

At the Word of Christ

*“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and life.”
Jesus (John, 6:63)*

At all times, great Spirits appear in the world who wield the word, impressing multitudes; notwithstanding, they speak within a limited scope, even if they are heard on several continents.

Dante defines an era.

Camões exalts a race.

Shakespeare shapes the experiences of a people.

Voltaire expresses a social transformation.

Yet, the doctrine of Jesus transcends artistic craftsmanship, literary gems, political platforms, philosophical postulates, and watertight formulas. It is addressed to all creatures on Earth, with absolute opportunity, whether in this or that field of evolution.

That is why the Spiritist Doctrine reflects it. Not just by reforming the thin concepts of the religious movement; like someone dismantling an old building, to give a different disposition to the materials that integrate it into new construction, destined for simple exterior effects.

The teachings of the Master, in the Christian-Spiritist principles, constitute a renovating system, a path to follow, a roadmap for action, and a guideline for each being

improvement.

When you read them, do not judge yourself as if you were in front of a spectacle of beauty, next to which you should only weep, be it by nourishing the source of your own emotion or penning your own mistakes.

Besides tears, let us also learn to think, purify ourselves, get up again, and serve. The soul's need is like thirst or hunger, moral maladjustment or disease, which are the same in any environment.

The lesson of Christ is also comparable to the source and the bread, to the balancing factor and the medicine, which are fundamentally the same everywhere.

In dealing with ourselves or with other people, it is imperative not to forget that the Lord Himself warned us that his words are spirit and life.

In Ownership Problems

*“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take
nothing out of it.”
Paul (Timothy, 6:7)*

Observe the misfortune of those who have chained themselves to the passion of possession in the fields of sentiment.

Many were not satisfied with their ruin, turning others into victims of the follies to which they entrusted themselves, insane.

They presumed to own the creatures they loved, and before the first signs of emancipation, they did not hesitate to strike them down with a homicidal blow.

They thought they were the absolute owners of ephemeral assets and transformed the tears of orphans and widows into chains of hunger and bonds of death.

They presumed to be the exclusive rulers of authority and strengthened the empire of violence.

They overestimated their resources and, enraptured by the megalomania of misguided power, they aggravated the

dangers of ignorance and the processes of cruelty.

Nonetheless, all of them, dominated by pride, awakened, disoriented and unhappy in the darkness they had piled on themselves, with immense work to do for their liberation.

Use the possibilities of life, without the presumption of taking possession of what God lends you.

In ephemeral advantages, which greets you on your way among men, remember, with the Apostle Paul, that reincarnated Spirits do not bring along any material properties into this world, and they cannot take away with them anything from it.

In the Domains of Good

"But I wanted to do nothing without your opinion so that your benefit was not to compose an obligation, but spontaneous."

- Paul (Philemon, 1:14.)

It is of the evolutionary Laws that all the lower agents of Nature serve on a compulsory basis.

Stones are torn from the ancient cradle to obey the constructions.

Vegetables fall, under hard throws of strength to make themselves more helpful.

Animals suffer impositions and blow to surrender to the provision of service.

Once reached, though, the reason, by attest of self-hardness, the spirit is called to free will, as the son of the creator who came of age in creation.

When it has reached this stage, it is illuminated by the inner flame of discernment for the acquisition of experiences that it has to carry out, to raise its merits, and

may, in truth choose the straight or sinuous, light or dark path, in which it best cares.

It, therefore, reflects on the intimate and personal freedom at hand to do good, broadly, unlimitedly, constantly...

Writing to Philemon, Paul said, **"But I wanted to do nothing without your opinion, to that your benefit was not as per obligation, but spontaneous."**

So does the Divine Master to us.

Here and there, he proposes to us, directly or indirectly, teachings and attitudes, buildings and services, but he always waits for our voluntary response, since the work of true spiritual sublimation does not involve constrained servants.

Call for Love

And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness.”

Peter (II Peter, 1:6)

Learning always, instructing ourselves, enlightening our thoughts, polishing our words, analyzing the truth, and searching for it, are attitudes that we cannot dispense with, we aspire to obtain high knowledge; nonetheless, millions of talented workers on terrestrial evolution, in the centuries gone by, espoused intellectual culture, in a unique sense, and fostered oppressions that culminated in dreadful wars of extermination.

Incapable of controlling appetites and passions, to frenzy in the race for power, they soaked the earth with the blood and tears of those who were victims of their unruly ambitions.

All greatness of intelligence demands moderation and equilibrium in order not to overflow into licentiousness and madness. Even so, temperance and patience alone are not enough to exalt the luster of the brain.

Diplomacy itself, moreover, is always venerable, although it resides on the heights of gentleness and tolerance, its

gestures of sobriety and courtesy are, in many cases, nothing more than the art of contemporizing existing hostility between nations, calmly holding the fuse of hatred and pugnacity for the respective explosion, at the time it deems appropriate for calamitous conflagrations.

The Gospel's point, still, is clear and precise.

Science is worthless without temperance, and all temperance requires patience to be helpful. Yet, for this triad of forces to arise in the field of the soul, opening the longed-for access to the higher worlds, love must be present to ennoble their impulse, once only love has enough light to illuminate the present and sanctify the future.

Study Invitation

*“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your
Faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge.”*

Peter (II Peter, 1:5)

Millions of creatures have had faith in the past, showing extreme confidence in God, but, because goodness was absent in their hearts, they brought unspeakable tortures for those who did not share their way of feeling and being.

They said they were devoted to the worship of the Supreme Lord; nevertheless, they built bonfires and martyrdom poles, persecuting or exterminating sensitive and affectionate people in his name.

Millions of creatures have shown admirable kindness in the past, proving deep fraternal understanding in the work they were called to develop among men. Yet, because education was lacking in their spirit, they fell into terrible mistakes, favoring tyranny and slavery on Earth.

They showed obedience to God in the exercise of their generosity, but they delighted in ignorance, stimulating crimes and abuses, under the pretext of submission to divine Providence.

Hence, the word of the apostle Peter is of most opportunity at all times.

Let us try to base our faith on goodness, so our faith does not turn into fanaticism, but this still does not suffice.

Faith and goodness must be crowned with the light of edifying knowledge.

We all need to hope in Infinite Love, but it is fair to learn "how"; we all need to be good, but it is indispensable to know "for what".

That is the reason why we must study all aspects of life, since trusting by accomplishing the best and assisting in the extension of the eternal good, really demands discernment.

In Spiritual Bread

“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him: “Feed my sheep.”

(John, 21:17)

Noting the concern of the Divine Shepherd in addressing Simon Peter recommends the sheep to him it is important to notice that the Master does not ask for any wonderful activity.

He does not command the apostle to convert their bleating into pieces of music.

He does not determine whether to turn their hair into golden threads.

He does not advise transfiguring the fold into a palace.

He does not demand that they be granted an exception regime.

He does not command him to give them wings.

He only asks the apostle to give them something to eat, so they live and produce for the general good without escaping the precepts of work, and without abolishing the dictates of evolution.

Certain, however, the Excellent Conductor did not feel the need to warn the fellow about the fair caution of not adding toxic agents to the troughs and normal fodder.

So also occurs in the realm of human creatures.

Workers of ideas called to nourish the thought of the multitude.

Indeed, Christ does not expect you to change your readers and listeners into models of heroism and virtue. He counts on your correct effort, so the meal of superior knowledge is distributed with everyone, waiting, though, that the table of your attitude is neat, and of your words is clean.

Let Us Remain Faithful

*“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust
Must prove faithful.”*

Paul – (I Corinthians, 4:2)

In a device, the production safety demands that each part works in its proper place.

In an orchestra, for the symphony to reach its full melodic force, each instrument must be located in its respective function.

In the work of the Gospel, it is also indispensable that each one is aware of the attributions he was given.

You will say that the Lord will settle all the needs, that he does not sleep on the promises made, that his Infinite Kindness will solve all the problems, that our faith needs to be sustained unconditionally, and you will be proclaiming the truth, by not endorsing laziness or the imprudence of the servants.

The captain of a great ship may be a genius of wisdom and kindness, but the entire management is immediately compromised if the most obscure employee of the ship, places a bomb in the engine room.

Whatever our position in the service of the Master, it is imperative to reflect that if we wait for Him, it is natural that He also waits for us.

Despite the mistakes that still mark our hearts, let us be sincere in ourselves, and let us be determined to fulfill the duty that we have taken on before our conscience.

Let us give up claiming, stumbling blocks and guilt, inhibitions and defects, to escape the responsibilities.

The ox itself, showing its muddy hooves, in order to be used for plowing, together with man, must be a faithful animal.

Meeting the Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Paul - (II Corinthians, 5:17)

It is common to hear, at each step, observations of discouraged and downcast companions, perpetuating emotions, pessimism and sourness, as if they were harboring thorns and swamps submerged in themselves.

They breathe and walk, carrying along, a huge underworld of sorrows and disappointments, leaving, where they tread a dark trail of gall.

They speak of painful experiences of their own intimate life, employing a thousand tortuous and blunt phrases in the note that could fit into a few clear and simple words.

They dramatize disenchantments.

They reconstitute past illnesses with the voluptuousness of those who seek their undesirable acquaintanceship.

They complain of ingratitude.

They point to preteritions and losses they suffered in

previous times.

They retell sad episodes that life has already relegated to the archives of time.

And, with that, they poison life and their souls, incapable of perceiving that the Gospel is light and renewal in the fields of the spirit.

If old pains and overcome problems come back to your mind, forget them, and move on...

Think about the best that awaits you, and voluntarily seek the work to be done.

According to the assertion of the Apostle, if someone remains in Christ, he is a new creature because, effectively, when our life is in Jesus, everything in us and before us becomes new.

On the Gospel Route

“Make room for us in your hearts.”

Paul - (II Corinthians, 7:2)

Surveillance in the reception of the evangelical teachings is reasonable.

As much as possible, it is imperative to use the tools of most effort to verify their clarity, to transmit them to others with exact authenticity.

Historical accuracy. Correct citation. Natural logic.

Clean language. Uplifting comments. Elevated illustrations.

Attentive to the respectability of the matter, it will not be fair to lose sight of reliable information, grammatical screening, the impartiality of the exam, and worthy conceptualization. We must do it, so that improprieties and sophisms do not come to muddy the living and pure spring of truth, that originally poured out of Christ for the enlightenment of humanity.

Even so, it is urgent not to forget that the instructions of the divine Master are directed, above all, to feelings, striving

to support our interior renewal, so we adjust to the statutes of eternal good.

That is the reason for the fact that, in all services of evangelical education, it is valuable that we reflect on the happy note of the apostle Paul: ~ **"Receive us into your hearts..."**

Divine Calling

“Then he ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the Streets and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and The lame.’”

(Luke, 14:21)

Many people allege an inability to collaborate in the services of goods, under the aegis of Christ, listing moral impediments.

Some say they are wrong in excess; those who affirm to be under burdens of remorse and guilt; the ones who declare to have grave defects, and others who claim to have suffered unfortunate accidents of the soul..

Still, the word of Jesus is addressed to everyone, without any exception.

The poor in virtue, crippled in feeling, lame in reasoning, and blind in superior knowledge are called to the edification of the new age.

That is why in Jesus, everything is new so that life can be renewed.

Addicted, inhibited, disoriented, and ignorant spirits of

yesterday, at the touch of the Gospel, become today cooperators of the Great Cause, forgetting illusions, undoing mental prisons, suppressing imbalances, and dispelling old shadows.

If the spiritual reality seeks you, offering you service in the lifting of good works, do not stop to present deformities and frustrations.

In the environment of the Good News, we all find resources for healing and rehabilitation, uplifting and solace. For that, we need to be sincere, in the face of our own need for correction, with a spirit spontaneously consecrated to the privilege of working and serving.

Pretexts

“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’”
Jesus – (Luke, 14:18)

Excuses have always been the escape hatch of those who abandon their obligations.

Our brothers who have had the misfortune of slipping into delinquency, generally justify themselves with vigorous power of persuasion, but this does not exonerate their conscience from the necessary rescue.

Companions who ruin their bodies in vicious habits build an extended system of excuses, trying to legitimize the unfortunate attitudes they adopt, moving those who hear them, and though, they end up bearing in themselves the consequences of the responsibilities to which they cling.

And, even now, when the Spiritist Doctrine revives the Gospel, inviting men to the construction of the good on Earth, there are many excuses disguising desertions:

- I am still too young..

- I am too old..

- I have taken on commitments, and I cannot fulfill the tasks you propose to me...
- My tribulations are enormous...
- Family obligations are growing...
- Business does not permit me any spiritual activity...
- I have committed myself to debts that afflict me...
- The children take my time...
- Problems are many...

There are so numerous evasions and so vehement come they, that the most astute listeners end up convinced that they are before great sufferers, or frankly incapable creatures, even supporting them in their flee.

The ones invited to the plantation of light, yet, enticed by themselves, wake up to the truth at the opportune moment and tied to the ruinous consequences of their levity, they find no other restorative measure than awaiting other reincarnations.

At the Wellspring of Good

"Let us not become weary in doing good, while it is time."

Paul - (Galatians, 6:19)

Countless people only admit to giving valuable help when money comes in.

Nevertheless, there are services that gold cannot gratify.

There are fair wages for the burdens of teachers, but no one can pay the sacrifices with which they embrace the duties of the school.

There are fees for the medical activities; yet, no one will be able to reward in coined values the devotion to which the missionary of healing gives himself to helping the sick.

One cannot buy stimulus to work.

One cannot buy hope in the stores.

The fraternal smile is not a business matter. Kindness is not a market item.

Wherever life places you, there you will find, every day, multiple occasions to do good. Often, you will not have abundant money to mitigate the misery of others. Though, you will always have a comforting word, a providential prayer, a kind reference, and a friendly gesture.

The Apostle Paul recognizes that sometimes we go through large or small periods of inhibitions and trials, for which he recommends:

"While we have the time, let us practice good works to all."

Still, even in severe circumstances, it is urgent to do the best we can for others, because according to the laws of life, what a man seeds, is what he will reap.

In the Light of Truth

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

(John, 8:32)

No kind of human love can compare with Divine Love.

Such a note should come to mind whenever we tend to violate the thoughts of others.

The Supreme Goodness, which is always the invariable goodness, leaves creatures free to acquisition of knowledge.

The Providence respects the will of the Spirit in all manifestations, including those in which man is extravagant; when a man goes astray in criminality, espousing obscure commitments.

The person converts life into what he wishes, under the aegis of the Perfect Justice that reigns in all the dimensions of the Universe, determining that each one is granted according to his works.

We choose the types of experience we propose to stage in this or that phase of evolution.

Discord and tranquility, action and laziness, error and correction, debt and redemption are result of our choice.

Hence, let us respect each other.

Do not try to force your neighbor to read the primer of reality through your eyes, nor to interpret the teachings of daily life with the head that belongs to you.

Intimate emancipation will emerge for consciousness to the extent that consciousness is disposed to search for it.

Let us recall the words of Christ:

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

Note that the Master did not designate a place, set conditions, stipulate a road map, or specify a time.

He just promised:

"You will know the truth," and to access the truth, each one has his day.

Facing Conformism

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is.
Paul (Romans, 12:2)

There is conformation and conformism.

Conformism is the system of adjusting oneself to all circumstances.

Conformation is the voluntary and serene submission of the person to the trials presented by life.

There are, therefore, the conforming and the conformist disciples before Jesus.

The conformed ones are faithful to the disciplines that the Master advises them.

The conformists, nevertheless, mechanically adapt to the conventions and illusions that lubricate the mechanisms of human conveniences.

They confess respect for Christ, but do not hesitate to disobey His teachings when it is a matter of preserving the

excessive material comfort in which they soften.

They say that Jesus is the only way to the regeneration of the world; though, they espouse any expedient of the majority in which cunning or illegality favors their individual interest.

They adopt an irreproachable exterior in the temples, and unspeakable directives in their interchange with their neighbor.

They distinguish themselves on the street by their courtesy and ponderous phrases, and at home, they prove to be aggressive and unbalanced, just like thinking hurricanes.

Thence, let us understand the wise statement of the apostle Paul, learning to endure patiently the deceptions of the world, without accommodating himself to them; certain that it is necessary to maintain unfailing loyalty to the application of evangelical precepts to renew the understanding.

Only by embracing such basic guidance, will it be possible for us to disintegrate the scales of chronic selfishness in which we lived for centuries, in order to understand the design of God, in the construction of our happiness.

Before Providence

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman
that needeth not to be ashamed,”
Paul (II Timothy, 2:15)*

It is worthy of note the observation of the apostle Paul to Timothy, concerning the best way to show himself to God.

Contrary to the uneasiness of many religions in the world, which aspire to the highest spiritual prominence, the friend of Gentiles, whose faith has matured in harsh testimonies of suffering, does not recommend to the disciple any acquisition of special attributes.

He does not ask you to weave hero laurels for your head, nor does he advise you to demand the sublime encounter, boasting about certificates of sanctity.

He does not articulate rules, so he overlaps with the presence of others, nor does he draw penances or rituals, tending to flatter the Divine Paternity.

He simply asks him to live in such a way that he may appear before God in the position of the worker of an upright conscience, honorable in well-fulfilled obligations.

If you, in turn, want to reach the Higher Sphere, so as the

joys of those who identified with the Infinite Love, do not lose yourself in fanciful expectation of immunity before the law.

Attend, each day, to the duties that life has prescribed for you, be loyal to service and patience, and let us be convinced that the most advanced way to present ourselves to Providence will be always that of the honest worker, approved in the service entrusted to him and that has nothing to be ashamed of.

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On Freedom

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not
Use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but
Through love serve one another.”
Paul (Galatians, 5:13)*

The more the Earth's intellectual evolution grows, the more people claim for Freedom.

Some peoples fight for broader freedom.

Its so-called champions appear, setting up barracks of oppression and fiery legends of rebellion.

There are talks of more freedom for the youth.

Yet, a glance at the improved machines of the modern world is enough to recognize the inevitable imposition of discipline.

The car sparks, overcoming barriers, but if the driver loses balance behind the wheel or disobeys traffic signals, the accident happens.

The plane devours distances, transporting man across all continents in the space of a few hours.

Despite that, if the pilot does not comply with the plans outlined in the direction, the disaster is not long in coming.

Let us praise freedom, yes, but the freedom that builds, improves, assists, elevates...

No one on Earth was freer than the Divine Master.

Free even from possession, tradition, kinship, authority...

Nonetheless, no one more than him made himself a slave to the Superior Designs, to benefit and enlighten the humankind.

This is why the apostle Paul wisely warns us: **“You were called to freedom, but do not use your freedom to encourage debauchery; rather, let us sanctify freedom, through love, by seeking to serve.”**

Bread

“I am the bread of life.”

Jesus – (John, 6:48)

It is essential to consider the statement of Jesus, comparing himself to bread.

All peoples, at all times, boast of their national dishes.

The festive tables, for all ages, are feasted with exotic foods.

Exciting condiments, complicated mixtures, extravagant confections, and great sacrifices of animals.

Sometimes, after the toxic delicacies, the dizzying libations.

Bread, however, is a popular food.

Even though it varies in the ingredients and the methods by which it is made, it consists of flour, which is kneaded and commonly fermented and which, after being subjected to the heat of the oven, becomes an essential factor in the world's sustenance.

Always the same, in the avenue, or the slum in the school or the hospital. If another kind of snack is added, between two slices, it is no longer bread. It is a sandwich.

If given to the formation of tidbit that absorbs it, it naturally disappears.

Bread is invariably bread.

When someone envelops you in the confetti of flattery, increasing your vanity, do not overestimate your values.

Do not believe yourself to be in exceptional conditions, and do not place yourself above others.

Embrace in your daily errands of mercy the path of ascension, remembering that Jesus ~ the Divine Envoy and Spiritual Governor of the Earth ~ did not find for himself any other image nobler and higher than that of pure and simple bread.

In the Presence of the Master“

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love.”

JESUS

As we aspire to the title of friends of the Lord, we mustn't waste his instructions.

Imbued with enthusiasm, we are prodigious in outward manifestations to this effect purpose, adding the observation that almost all of them are characterized by high inductive value.

We have endeavored to study the words and attitudes of the Master: and we do not have any other resources to penetrate their luminous meaning.

We provide precious advice, in his name, without being allowed to handle a vehicle more suited to the circumstances, so that our brothers and sisters can find the direction or path that they lack.

We write pages that express his guidelines, and it does not fall to us to act in any other way, so the culture of the spirit can be expanded on Earth.

We raise courts, in which we reveal his teachings by the

well-positioned verb, and it is necessary that we do so, to spread edifying clarifications, which favor the education of feelings.

We carry out laborious researches, adjusting the elucidations inspired by him to the grammatical precepts in vogue, and there is no other way than this, to make respected his orientation in human assemblies.

However, this does not suffice.

He did not limit to inducing, demonstrating his own union with the Eternal Good, he consecrated himself to substantiate it, in the construction of the good of all.

Verily, we can revere Christ, here and there, in this or that way, resulting, invariably, in some advantage from such an external norm; yet, to know how to enjoy his sublime intimacy, we must listen to his categorical affirmation:

"You will be my friends if you do what I command you."

136
In Real Victory

*“But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
Jesus (John, 16:33)*

It is worth listing some of the difficult circumstances in which Jesus was, when he said to his disciples:

“But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

He was someone who, in the conceptualization of the world, was nothing more than a vulgar loser.

He knew that he was about to enter into bitter loneliness.

He confessed that he had been misunderstood by the men.

He had set out to serve.

He was aware that opponents had assaulted his budding community, through a careless friend.

He addressed his companions, announcing that they themselves would be bluntly of the flogging he would suffer.

He saw himself as disliked by the majority, persecuted, betrayed.

He was not unaware that his intentions were being poisoned.

He made sure that the most highly placed people were the first to examine the best way to confuse him.

He had noticed the hatred he had become object of, especially on the part of those who intended to monopolize the name of God, in the service of inferior interests.

He recognized himself only a few steps away from death, to which he would bow, condemned without guilt.

Still, he said: **"But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

When you find yourself in crisis, remember the Master.

Subdued, he would be the unforgettable conqueror.

Beaten, he would become the lord of victory.

It is thus because the builders of spiritual improvement are not on Earth to win in the world, but notably to win the world in themselves, in order to serve the world, always more and more, and better.

Beliefs

“You believe that God is one. Good for you! Even the Demons believe that — and shudder.”

(James, 2:19)

A few moments of reflection on the Gospel shake us out of our thoughts, so we can awaken for the recognition of our responsibilities in matters of belief.

We affirm, at each step, the irrefutable conviction as to the existence of God.

We usually frame our mental life to a determined type of religious interpretation, to revere Him in the way we deem most worthy.

We build shrines to honor his munificence.

We intend to enshrine Him in works of art.

We admire His wisdom, whether in the grandeur of the sky, or the simplicity of the ground.

We make sure that His laws are ineluctable, from those ones that were laid down for the seed, to those that trace the path to the constellations.

We articulate prayers of praise, or supplication, in which we address our most intimate yearnings to him.

We prescribe trust in God for all those who have not yet been able to treasure it.

Sometimes, we even reach the childish enthusiasm, of those who imagine they can guess the opinions of God on this or that regard.

All these attitudes are born of the person who recognizes the immanence of God.

However, evil spirits also know that God exists.

Belief for belief, there is belief on the higher planes, and a belief in the lower planes.

Let us meditate on this to consider that, above all, it is imperative to know what we are doing of our faith.

Order

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Paul (Corinthians, 14:40)

All the triumphs of human science take place on the basis of the order established by Divine Wisdom, in all spheres of Creation.

Astronomy points out in advance, certain phenomena that will happen in the Cosmos, given the balance in which the movements of the Universe are governed.

Medicine formulates exact prognosis, to count on the regularity of organic occurrences in the physical vehicle.

In any region of the Earth, it is possible to predict the hours of shadow and light.

Cultivators guide their activities in the field according to the seasons.

The plant produces conforming to the species, and each grafting practiced by man is characterized by limitations defined in the structures of the vegetal kingdom.

Everything in the Divine Work is based on principles of harmony.

Hence, let us refrain from disturbing the construction of the spirit, with the excuse of exalting charity, or with the pretext of fulfilling the will of God.

Evolution and improvement constitute the realization of all, assigning tasks to each one.

The first sign of the Project of Providence, wherever it may be, appears in the duty to which we are called in the construction of the common good.

Let us, therefore, be faithful to our tasks.

Any device, to work safely requires order. And order demands that each piece is in its due place.

Pure Religion

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their Afflictions and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
(James, 1:27)*

Religion, before human creatures, can involve diverse attitudes:

Polemizing about the attributes of God...

Adding individual interpretations to sublime revelations...

Centralizing the mind in exegesis...

Consuming one's existence in casuism.

Re-examining venerable principles at the right time...

Attend to rituals.

Enriching symbology ...

Adopting conventional postures...

Cultivating empty penances...

Building monuments of stone...

No one denies that these manifestations are attestations of religion and religiosity among us, the incarnate and disincarnate creatures on Earth; and no one denies the relative value they present to certain people, at certain stages of evolution.

Nonetheless, the Gospel teaches us that pure religion, before God, is something else.

James traces the correct definition, by stating:

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: visiting orphans and widows in their affliction, and keeping oneself unspotted from the world.”

In conclusion, the irreproachable beliefs of the soul, before Divine Providence, as confirmed to us by the Spiritist Doctrine in its postulates, rests, above all, on the service to one's neighbor and on an unblemished character.

Or rather, on constant charity and tranquility of conscience.

140
Before Justice

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone
Claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith
Save them?”
(James 2:14)*

The norm of man is strange, when he thinks he has the keys to the Higher Life, simply by maintaining faith; as if conviction alone was enough to perform determined service.

Let us compare faith and works with plans and buildings.

Without a proper plan, a building cannot be constructed on incorrect lines.

It should be noted, however, that the architectural cripple, improvised without a plan, still serves, anywhere, to accommodate those who journey aimlessly, and the noblest project, without the corresponding realization, is nothing more than a geometric gem, sentenced to be a file.

A traveler will carry with him a vast collection of sketches to build an entire city, but if he has no tent to shelter in during the downpour, the sketches, while respectable, will certainly not prevent the rain from soaking his bones.

Possessing a faith will be retaining a religious belief; still, cultivating faith means observing security and punctuality to perform a commitment.

No one redeems a debt solely by praising the creditor.

Given this, let us not have illusions.

Let us make sure that Divine Goodness will not be lacking, but let us build in ourselves human goodness.

However high one's trust in the Higher Power of the Universe, that alone does not entitle him the right to claim the good he has not done.

141
Hospitality

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Paul (Hebrews, 13:2)

It is likely that you do not have the needed resources to host people.

Obstacles and domestic ties often determine impediments.

If the relatives are still unsatisfied with you, in the culture of kindness, it is not fair to violate the harmony of the household, establishing discord, in the name of the Gospel that recommends you to serve them.

It is unreasonable to pile friends into an insignificant space, imposing on them restrictions, in the name of affection.

All of us, however, manage to open the doors of the soul and welcome morally.

Not all unprotected people are among those who travel homelessly.

Here and there, we surprise those who wander, disinherited from support and coexistence...

Watch, and you will have them on the path, asking you for the shelter of understanding.

Offer them a phrase of courage, a thought of peace, a gesture of friendship, a moment of attention...

Sometimes, the one who gets back up today with your crumb of love is the one who will solve your needs for tomorrow, in a car of blessings. Do not say you are useless; do not say you are incapable.

There is no one who cannot help someone by extending the warmth of sympathy through the threads of the heart.

142
For the Good of All

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said: I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
Paul (Hebrews 13:5)

A Spirit is incarnated and reincarnated on Earth, in order to perfect itself on the way to the Superior Stances of the Universe.

Thus, do not imprison yourself in the torments of the superfluous that avarice retains, as an indispensable resource for life, in the blindness with which it invents fanciful needs.

The owner of the orchard will not run from the fruits, other than the quota compatible with the resources of his stomach.

The cotton wholesaler will wear one shirt at a time.

Nevertheless, the cultivator and the trader will be blessed in Heaven, if they release the values they administer, in praise of work that dignifies, education that elevates, beneficence that restores, or fraternity that sublimates.

Let us attend to the duties that circumstances assign to us by cherishing ideals of spiritual enhancement.

Though, let us learn to be content with what we have, without ambitioning what we do not, with regard to passing assets, in order to conquer, without unnecessary frictions, the talents we lack.

There has never been a man in the world, surrounded by unfruitful treasures, who has been free, just for that, from the laws that govern suffering and sickness, old age and death.

Let us respect the divine principles of good for all.
Let us trust, by working.
Let us walk, by serving.

“I will not leave you nor forsake you” – the Lord told us.

Yes, the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us, but if we do not want painful experiences, he naturally hopes that we will not relegate ourselves to illusion, nor despise his company.

In the Glare of Truth

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the
Lord.*

Live as children of light.

Paul – (Ephesians, 5:8)

Curious statistics mention approximately the portions of time that the human creature spends in waking and sleeping, in work, and entertainment.

Very important to each of us, however, is the personal balance, from time to time, of hours spent in harmful lamentations.

Most of us go through dark labyrinths before reaching an appropriate spiritual path.

In various circumstances, mistakes and mistakes have filled our minds with regrets and belated regrets. However, it does not justify stagnant crying.

A sensible driver does not get out of the car, blocking the road, because he has lost his brakes or has suffered maladjustments. Negligence would testify against him, adding, still, the circumstance of creating dangerous obstacles to the transit.

We were possibly in the dark until yesterday... Probably, frightening falls will have marked past experiences...

We found ourselves, though, in the condition of a traveler who goes surrounded by shadows, stumbling here and there, without precious discernment. Today, however, when everything is light around us, let us avoid dramatizing disenchantments or mistakes, through complaints and recriminations that complicate and hinder, instead of simplifying and helping.

Paul reflectively states: **“You were once darkness, but now you are the light of the Lord; walk as children of light.”**

Few people can claim to be unaware of the temptations and risks of the fog, but all of us, transformed in the glare of truth, can walk the path ahead, reborn in the dawn of superior knowledge for the work of light.

144
Exemplify

*“So, he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report.”
(Luke, 7:22)*

Throughout all nations, man raises remarkable achievements, in which he exalts: (to make high, to raise, to elevate) his intelligent selfishness.

Everywhere, sanctuary works appear, calling for moderation and correction, the abuse of the few does not aggravate the afflictions and needs of the many.

However, because reasoning demands clear confrontations for correct studies, let us recognize the highlighting, although empty and sometimes ruinous (harmful, bad, noxious), of similar commitments.

No one denies the amenity of the building, whimsically constructed for useless parties, although one cannot praise its destiny.

The preciousness of the luxury yacht is indisputable, even if it is only dedicated to excess.

The delightful feature of a hanging garden is incontestable, even if it is only an architectural appendix.

The spectacle of the light fountain, as a distraction in the public square, is beautiful, even though it is a simple

fountain.

By analyzing these undertakings, in the logic of Spiritism, we are, nonetheless, compelled to recognize that friends who are linked to superfluous matters can be acting in this way for lack of enlightenment and guidance.

The earthly experience at present does not ignore that it is necessary to teach men the art of feeding and dressing, of talking and living together, so there may be health, euphoria, understanding, and harmony in Humanity.

Jesus said, on several occasions, to his followers: "Go and preach..."

It is not fair, therefore, to reproach, without consideration, those companions still involuntarily distant from the realities of the spirit.

Where waste appears as a scourge of ignorance, let us begin the construction of the truth by the example of sobriety, in the certainty, that in every educational service, exemplifying is explaining.

While There is Time

*“Therefore, as we have an opportunity, let us do good to
all people...”*

Paul - (Galatians, 6:10)

Sometimes the environment becomes so disturbed that the only way to help is to be silent with the intimate light of prayer.

In many circumstances, the companion is under the sway of such extensive deceit, that the path to help him is waiting for life to renew the field of his spirit.

There are occasions when some event appears so distorted that we have no option but to condescend to the difficulty, waiting for better days for the enlightening work.

Evils appear on the road with such force of expansion that there is often no solution but delivering those who have been complicit with them, to the deplorable consequences that follow.

Yet, the opportunities to build the good stand out by the dozens in the hours of everyday life.

An indication is given with patience.

A word that inspires good cheer.

A gesture that dispels sadness.

A favor that sends away affliction...

Let us analyze the daily path.

Peace and fraternal cooperation, explanation and contentment are moral works that require edifying service, as the achievements of the physical sphere.

The house is edified, element by element.

The opportunity for the victory of good is built, effort by effort.

In both, diligence is indispensable.

Hope is not worth with inertia.

The brick will do the work, but our hands must seek it out.

Let us Serve in Peace

*“Do not be anxious about anything,”
Paul (Philippians, 4:6)*

Almost everywhere we meet people who are stressed for no reason, or exhausted, for no apparent motive.

They pass through doctors' offices, go to religious houses begging for miracles; they isolate themselves in uselessness, and cry of boredom. They confess they ignore the cause of the ills that overwhelm them, and clamor, groundlessly, against the environment they live in...

As a rule, instead of placing the mind on the natural path of evolution, they throw it to the cliffs of the margin.

That the Earth hosts multitudes of debt-ridden companions, as much as we, we all know... The vulgar press carves columns and columns dedicated to tragedy; certain publications cultivate the habit of installing delinquency; conflicts explode, inflaming the rebellion of this or that social stratum, prophets of pessimism advance dark forecasts...

All this happens; all this is inevitable.

It is urgent, however, not to give to events contrary to the harmony of life any more attention than necessary.

It is enough to exaggerate the use of mental energy, in a scandal or a crime, to enter into relationship with the destructive agents that caused them.

If we offer restorative rest or resistance to evil more than the indispensable time, we will fall into laziness or anger that wears down our strength.

If we consume decaying food, we head for sickness; if we fill our brains with uncontrolled preoccupations, we are immediately inclined to unbalance.

To immunize us against such maladjustments, the Apostle Paul urged us: "**Do not be anxious about anything**", as if he told us that it falls to us, those who have chosen Jesus as our Master, the obligation to walk in the world, even troubled and suffering, without wasting time and life in superfluous matters. Proceeding, steadfast, on the route of understanding and service that the Lord has traced for us.

147
Hands to Work

*“Jesus reached out, touched him, and said, “I’m willing. So
be clean!”
(Matthew, 8:3)*

Hands outstretched!...

When you are meditating and praying, remember that all the great ideas were poured out through the arms, to accomplish good works.

Cities that honor civilizations, industries that sustain the people, a home that houses the family, a productive land, are guaranteed by the effort of hands.

Doctors spend a long time studying to obtain the title that gives them the right to guide the patient; yet, they always extend their hands to help the sick.

Educators dip several glosses into the stream of the alphabet, acquiring the science of handling them; though, they spend a long stretch of their existence, reaching out in the work of writing.

Each reincarnation of our spirit demands open arms from the maternal lap to welcomes us.

Every meal, to emerge, asks for arms in motion.

Let us cultivate reflection, so the ideal illuminates us, without giving up the work that we exert. Although Jesus could be represented by millions of messengers, he chose to come to us himself, putting his hands in service, preferably towards the less happy.

Let us think of him, the Lord. And whenever we feel tired, sighing for undue rest, let us remember that the hands of Christ, after helping us and lifting us, far from finding restful support, were nailed to the wood of sacrifice.

Although mocked, and beaten, they still said farewell to us between and the word of forgiveness and the serenity of blessing.

148
In Good Combat

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.”
Paul – (II Timothy, 4:7)*

In combat, we aim at external enemies. We wield weapons, invent tricks, use cunning, create a strategy, and, at times, savor the defeat of our adversaries, amid false joys, ignoring that we are dilapidating ourselves.

In the good fight, we are willing to fight against ourselves, setting up vigilance batteries in opposition to inferior feelings and qualities that depress our souls.

Combat sinks our hearts to the Earth's crust, in painful processes of readjustment, in the law of cause and effect.

The good fight frees the spirit for the ascension to the superior planes.

Paul of Tarsus, writing to Timothy, in the last days of his earthly experience, has given us a precious definition in this sense.

He, who had walked in combat until his encounter with Christ, began to live in the good fight, from the moment of his interview with the Master. Up until the road to Damascus he had been on worldly laurels, eager for transitory dominations, but from the moment Ananias took

him in, blinded and disturbed, he entered into painful subalternity.

Misunderstood, despised, stoned, persecuted, imprisoned several times, slaughtered and sick, he never stopped serving the cause of good that he had embraced with Jesus, forgetting evils and ailments, constraints and insults.

Still, at the end of the career of Sower of the Truth, the ex-counselor of the Sanhedrin apparently devastated and defeated, left Earth in the condition of a real triumphant.

149
Every Day

*“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the
age.”*
Jesus – (Matthew, 28:20)

Do not say you are without the inspiration of Jesus to adopt the right course.

Earthly actuality shows scientifically that spiritual communion does not depend on space or time.

You can stare at a community leader and get his word, from a long distance, through the television.

Talk to a friend, from one continent to another, with the aid of the telephone...

Listening to a favorite singer, who performs from afar, through the radio.

Picking up the message of someone on a telegram strip...

Follow, in the columns of the press, the sympathetic chronicler you have never seen in person...

The same happens to our connections with the Christ of God. Jesus is not the absent master or a dead symbol.

Still and always, He is for us, those who declare to accept his governance, the vigilant mentor, and the living

example.

It is enough to review his lessons to reflect on him. And, by portraying him in ourselves, according to our narrow conceptions, we will receive from him the idea or the help that we need to choose rightly and act justly.

The Master promised us when speaking to his disciples:

- **"Behold, I am with you always, all days, until the consummation of the ages."**

As it is easy to note, the Lord is with us, waiting, however, for us to be with him.

150
Always Now

*“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day
of salvation.”*
Paul (II Corinthians 6:2)

There is also a synonym for the stanzas of life and opportunities of the soul.

All circumstances mean occasions for the cultivation of values of the spirit, such as:

Health ~ building;

Disease – improvement;

Youth~ preparation;

Maturity — judgment;

Prosperity – construction;

Penury — diligence;

Success – service;

Failure – experience;

Direction – example;

Subalternity – cooperation;

Rejoicing ~ prudence;

Sadness ~ courage;

Freedom – discipline;

Commitment – faithfulness;

Marriage – learning;

Celibacy ~ self-denial;

Work – duty;

Rest ~ profit.

The most diverse situations of everyday life express the coming of the right moment, so we can do the best.

Therefore, do not wait for the future to attend to the search for truth and the good farming.

The apostle Paul, profoundly aware of human needs, rightly indicates the time of spiritual elevation as the present moment, always.

151
Pray

“Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.”
Jesus – (Luke, 22:42)

It is common to change the votes we formulate, the plans we make.

Various purposes that were raised in our souls as afflictive longings of our feelings, after being realized, fall into the realms of the trivial, giving rise to new yearnings.

Petitions that we address to the Great Life, on many occasions, when answered, are already modified by different supplications. What was important to us yesterday, often descends to the lines of vulgarity, and what we despised in the past frequently becomes essential.

So, it is necessary to beg prudently for the concessions of life.

Higher powers watch over our needs, providing us with what is effectively beneficial to us.

In different circumstances, events that emerge as evil are good, which we do not immediately understand. It is, though, enough to analyze the occurrences of life to realize that many of those that appear to be good, result in evils that dilapidate our conscience and strike our hearts.

We all have admirable friends who are moved by our entreaties, exerting influence and resources to satisfy us, often harming themselves in the name of love, for our sake, since we are not always able to receive what we desire, in terms of comfort and advantage.

Let us thus learn to work, waiting by the designs of Divine Justice on our impulses. It is imperative to remember that Jesus Himself, in faithfulness to God was also constrained to say: **“Father, not my will, but yours be done”**.

152
Rest

“Then because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”
(Mark, 6:31)

Haste and agitation characterize the environment of the less-warned creatures of all times.

In Jesus' time, many people were already coming and going here and there, suffering the pressure of the material life demands, believing they had no time to think.

It caused the Master to address the crowd, urging:
“Come, you who are here apart, to a deserted place and rest a while”.

However, just as some exaggerate their own needs, falling into haste, we have the companions who overdo their rest, finding, at every step, reasons to flee from the duty.

At the sight of the slightest embarrassment, they declare to be tired, disillusioned, depressed, or sick, and stop the machine that belongs to them.

Then they go into inertia under the pretext of meditation, refreshment, virtue, or prayer. For this, many say that Jesus Himself advised rest and prayer, forgetting that the Lord

replenished his strength in the retreat, to return to service and continue working...

In this sense, it is worth remembering the textual words of the Gospel. Jesus did not say: rest as much as you want but rest a little.

Salvation Concept

“Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

Paul (II Corinthians 6:2)

Saving, in correct synonymy, is not deifying, projecting to heaven, conferring holiness on someone through sublimating magic, or providing a passport to intimacy with God.

Saving, in its legitimate meaning, is “delivering from ruin or danger”, “preserving”, “defending”, “sheltering” and none of these terms exempts a person from the responsibility of conducting and improving himself.

A ship saved from imminent risk is not exonerated from the voyage, in which it will naturally face new dangers; as well as a sick person saved from death is not bound by the imperative of continuing with the tasks of existence, overcoming mishaps and temptations.

The Gospel leaves no doubt about this. Pedro saved from indecision is impelled to support himself in work until the senescence of physical strength. Paul saved from cruelty, is constrained to maximum effort, in the very renewal, until the last sacrifice.

If you feel the heart called to the truth by the Spiritist Doctrine, let us understand that salvation will have

effectively come to us.

Not the one that wants to invest us, naively, in the possession of angelic titles, when we are human creatures, with the need to learn, evolve, correct and rectify ourselves. It is salvation in the true sense, that is, the help from Above, so that we are in the knowledge of our obligations before the Law, willing to espouse and fulfill them.

Above all, let us not stop at whining phrases, wasting more and more time. Let us recognize with the apostle “**the most appropriate time**” for salvation, or better, for the correction of our mistakes and the enjoyment of our life is called now.

On the Paths of Faith

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ has received a faith as precious.”

Peter (II Peter, 1:1)

On many occasions, we mistakenly admit that the great figures of Christianity have obtained privileges in the Divine Laws; yet, a reflection on the realities of the Gospel is enough for us to become aware of the unreason of such a concept.

Simon Peter tells us about the “**equally precious**” faith and rare figures in the history of Christ will be able to compete with him in terms of personal renewal.

He was a fisherman with a humble life, an almost illiterate man, committed to family obligations, an inhabitant of a very poor village, a follower of the Gospel, subjected to temptations and vacillations, which at times, made him fall.

Meantime, he raised himself to the position of the apostle of the highest cause of Humanity. He expanded his knowledge, acquired importance by becoming a leader and brother of the community.

He led the Christian idea in the metropolises of his time, and each time he found himself in error, he tried to correct

himself and move forward in the performance of the obligations assigned to him.

Indeed, we do not have any justification for exempting ourselves from the service of self-education before Christ, on the grounds that we do not have essential resources to solve the problems of our own amelioration for spiritual victory.

Peter, with the authority of example, tells us that, in the face of Divine Providence, we all obtained equal values for the accomplishments of the same faith.

155
Peace in Us

**“For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience...”
Paul (II Corinthians, 1:12.)**

Embracing the spiritual renewal for the conquest of light, we are often contradicted by the forces of the shadow, as if our hearts were exposed to all the destructive criticism.

You cultivate kindness, and they say you are an idiot.

You show patience, and they imagine you are a poltroon.

You forget blows you have suffered, and they call you a coward.

You practice humility, and they call you a fool.

You speak the truth, and they think you are obsessed.

You exercise gentleness, and they call you lazy.

You help fraternally, and they poison your gesture.

You trust, and they say you are a fanatic.

You fulfill obligations, and some mock you.

Nonetheless, despite all the doubts and objections that surround your steps, move forward.

Attend to the work that life prescribes you, according to the testimony of conscience, in the conviction that true happiness means, in everything, peace in us.

According to Our Actions

*“So I made up my mind that I would not make another
Painful visit to you.”
Paul (II Corinthians, 2:1)*

Beware of sadness, capable of becoming a mud of gall or a flame of anguish in the heart.

Feelings, ideas, words, and attitudes are magnetic agents of induction for better or worse, depending on the course that is traced to them.

Useless complaining weakens optimism, generating distrust and disturbance.

Sourness cuts off the impulse of generosity, annihilating good works at their birth.

Irritation saps the forces of the soul, bringing premature exhaustion.

Bruise nullifies hope, crushing work possibilities.

Despair burns the soil of the ideal, exterminating the seeding of good.

If you aspire to serve, plant benevolence and serenity, understanding and self-denial, in the land of your soul.

We all depend on each other in fulfilling our commitments.

Life, however, through all those who share our journey, reacts to us, as we act. Thus, for the execution of the task that is up to us, those who walk beside us only collaborate with us, giving something, to the extent and in the kind of that something which they receive.

In the Master's Construction

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

Paul (I Corinthians, 12:27)

The Gospel does not invite us to lazy trust in the powers of Christ, as if we were remunerated to function in empty worship.

The Apostle Paul makes us feel the full extent of the responsibility that is up to us before the Good News.

Every Christian is a living part of the Master's body of principles, with a service in particular.

Do not delude yourself, therefore, by focusing exclusively on lip affirmations of faith in the Lord, without joining the effort itself to the edifying work that has been assigned to us.

Feeling, thinking, talking, and even in this or that occurrence, it is essential to understand that we ought to feel, think, speak and act as if the Master were doing it in us and for us.

Someone will probably say that this would be a cheeky overestimation of ourselves. Notwithstanding, despite our obvious imperfections, we must begin to live in the Lord so that the Lord lives where we must live.

To do this, let us ask ourselves daily how Jesus would do what we are doing. Since Christ is the leader and mentor of our faith, all of us, his servants, are called upon in our individual activity to define him and treat him with faithful expression

158
Divine Will

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

The Will of God is expressed by the circumstances of existence; though, we must apprehend it in its essence and direction.

Not just for the religious notices that help us to look for it.
Not by the constraints of the Earth, which compel us to certain commitments.

Not by the social precepts that protect us in the discipline.

Not by the voice of friends who support us on the walk.

Nor by the stingers of proof that correct our feelings.

Faith enlightens, work conquers, the rule advises, affection comforts and suffering readjusts. Still, to understand the Divine Designs concerning us, we must renew ourselves in spirit, letting go of the ivy of conformism that takes root in our soul, nourished by the fertilizer of habit, in repeated experiences on Earth.

Let us receive the edifying help that the world offers us, but let us avoid compromising with the mistakes of the

world, striving to improve ourselves more and more, since education with us is a light in our spirits.

No matter how much we shine on the outside, in the game of temporary occurrences of physical stay, we will understand nothing of the light of God that sustains our life, without the light in us.

Let Us Learn, However

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

In many past reincarnations, we also adopted the strange way of many of our brothers, linked to Christianity today, whose religious behavior, life will readjust, just like happened to us.

We sought the Gospel, and we preached it, attending to a demagogic sense.

We wanted Christ, in order that Christ served us.

We cultivated prayer, intending to bribe Divine Justice.

We shared demonstrations and expressions of faith, in pursuit of personal advantages, in the immediacy of earthly gratifications.

Then, we have entered multiple times into physical rebirth and crossing the portals of reincarnation, carrying a conscience heavy with guilt, as a room filled with garbage and scrap of human experience, incapable of opening itself to the sun of Divine Goodness.

The apostle Paul, however, writing to Timothy - he who was the undiminished champion of the living faith - sets out the necessary guideline for us, ahead of the lessons of

the Lord.

After a valuable series of considerations, the evangelical principles sound, in which he persuades his companion to read, instruct, urge and exemplify in good works.

He asks not only that the apprentice meditates on the doctrines he accepts, but recommends that he applies them to himself, so the personal benefit of it may be manifest to all.

The assertion of Paul leaves no doubt.

As much as possible, let us study the lessons of the Lord and reflect on them.

Let us, however, learn to practice them, translating them into action in everyday life, so that our word does not become empty and our faith is not in vain.

Let Us Recognize, Though

*“And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do
Not belong to Christ.”
Paul (Romans, 8:9)*

We all need a call to the Gospel; we all go through the period of hunger for information about Christ. And adhering to the interpretations of the Christian teaching to which we are most suited, we often rely passionately on superficial expressions of our faith.

We share select or humble assemblies, in material temples, which, without a doubt, dignifies our religious thought.

We make part of groups that adopt our points of view, which really show the zeal of our attitudes.

We cultivate fierce discussions to demonstrate the validity of our opinions, which in essence, reveals our fervor.

We adopt outward habits, sometimes even in matters of diet and social convention, for the decided purpose of testifying, publicly, to our way of feeling, which, at the bottom, shows our sincerity that is always praiseworthy.

In many circumstances, we pray according to special formulas, we commit ourselves to particular devotions; we form circles of related activities, isolating ourselves within

them; or we carry couplets that specify our confession...

All external manifestations that recall the name of Jesus and refer, in any way, to his lessons are precious resources, edifying suggestions for the path. Let us recognize, nevertheless, that the word of the Gospel is very clear, in proclaiming the necessity of Christ in our lives, feelings, ideas and conducts, when it convincingly states: "But if anyone does not have the Spirit of the Christ, such a one is not his."

161
In Jesus' Standards

**“Become renewed in the spirit of your reason.”
Paul (Ephesians, 4:23)**

Many transformations take place.

We have those changes, due to the usages of time, in which we are invited to follow the prescriptions of fashion...

We usually enter some, capable of providing ourselves with material facilities, through corporations that value our interests...

We know others which affect our habits by the imposition of family, so that certain conveniences are not lost...

We still experience various others in which the recourse to certain external legends gives us the support of the transitory authorities of the world...

All these transformations are likely to enrich us with blessed occasions to improve and reconstruct the values that surround us, with a view to the cultivation and the victory of good.

The essential metamorphosis for us, yet, will always be that one that reaches our soul depths.

The apostle Paul urges us to renew ourselves through our feelings, in the light of the Gospel.

It is equivalent to saying that, once aiming at truly renew ourselves in the model of Christ, it is necessary, above all, to feel in his standards, in order to think, observe, hear, see, and act correctly in the accomplishment of the task that Christ has reserved for us.

Have Faith in God

*“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.
(Mark, 11:22.)*

Very often, the difficulties in the realization of a lofty project seem immovable to us.

We begin by recognizing their disquieting weight, and esteemed companions end up by highlighting their importance, as if they told us that we must renounce the good that we intend to do.

Everything is an insurmountable obstacle.

But God intervenes, and a door appears.

There are circumstances in which the problem we are faced with, in a constructive matter, is considered unsolvable.

We begin to worry, and generally, experts on the subject come to us, pointing out the impracticality of the solution.

Obscurities grow through indefensible shadows.

But God interferes, and a light appears.

On occasion, a beloved one, by suddenly becoming unbalanced, gives us the impression of an unrecoverable

illness. It grieves us to see them in such situation and, many times, friendly observers comment on the unfeasibility of any improvement, inducing us to leave them to their own misfortune.

The ordeal that resembles unavoidable anguish, grows...
But God determines, and a remedy emerges.
The same perplexities occur to you in cases of health, family, and achievements.

There are phases of work in which the fight is supposed to be invincible, with absolute discouragement of those around you, but God provides, and you continue, calmly, ahead.

No matter how rough the crisis, no matter how great the consternation, do not lose your optimism and work, confident.

Let us all listen to the indication of Jesus:
~ **"Have faith in God"**.

In the Field of Good

Let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Paul (Ephesians, 4:28)

You believe in brotherhood and expect it to reign over creatures without the imposition of any conflicts.

You aspire, naturally, to live in a world without class conflict.

You long for the light of the new age in which man will spontaneously be the brother of man, solving, without demands, each other's difficulties.

It hurts your heart to see superfluity and wanton, side by side, stimulating the madness of excess and the martyrdom of hunger.

You want affluence to suppress misery.

You call for the improvement of the standard of living, especially for those who cry in deprivation.

For good to appear, though, let us not wait for such lights to come initially from others. Let us begin with ourselves, without demanding from someone or against someone.

The apostle Paul, in this sense, offered us, almost two millennia ago, one of the most valuable indications. Each one, he says, **"Work, doing with your hands what is good, so that you may have to share with those in need."**

Let us be honest and recognize the truth that if we consecrate ourselves to service producing from ourselves what is helpful for the general good, each one of us will have to share for the benefit of others, without the slightest idea of complaint and without any motive to rebellion.

164
Verbal Tidiness

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your
Mouths, but only what helps build others up.”
Paul (Ephesians, 4:29)*

The further civilization advances, the more the cult of hygiene expands.

Reservoirs are treated, safeguarding the cleanliness of the water.

Markets suffer rigorous inspection, aiming at the purity of food substances.

Laboratories are continuously checked, so that no deteriorated medicines appear.

Sanitary facilities receive daily, careful asepsis.

Should we not exercise caution and diligence to avoid the vulgar word, capable of placing us in disturbance and ruin?

Our conversation, without our realizing it, acts for us in all those who listen to us.

Our sentences are agents of propaganda for the feelings which characterize our way of being; if respectable, they bring us the attention of respectable people; if less worthy,

the interest of those who make themselves less worthy; undisciplined, they attune us to representatives of indiscipline; if bitter, they tune us with the champions of bitterness.

Let us control the verb, so we do not release this or that vile word.

No matter how good our education may be, the repulsive expression articulated by our language is always a dangerous and unfortunate gap, through which danger and unhappiness threaten us with imbalance and perversion.

In the Domains of Action

*“But I did not want to do anything without your consent
So that any favor you do would not seem forced but
would be voluntary.”
Paul - (Philemon, 1:14)*

A man is proud of his possessions and goods, and usually declares, sometimes with excellent reasons, that he gathered them at the cost of enormous effort...

However, the Lord is the one who lent him the means to acquire them, expecting him to manage them wisely.

He becomes conceited due to his intellectual culture and often asserts, in some circumstances, with some justifications, that he owes the treasures of thought to the sacrifices he has made to study...

Still, the Lord is the one who entrusted him with the values of intelligence so that he could embellish them in the construction of happiness common to all.

He is proud of the power he possesses, affirming, in some cases, not without reason, that he has made such an acquisition at the price of work and suffering...

Notwithstanding, it is the Lord who has provided him with the resources to conquer authority, in the expectation that he will exercise it worthily. Nevertheless, it is the Lord who provides him with the essential elements to sustain his

equilibrium, so he can use his body to raise the general welfare.

Rejoice, thus, in the possibilities of helping, instructing, determining and acting, but, according to the teaching of the Apostle, do not forget that the goodness of the Lord prevails in the foundation of everything you have and retain, so you may consecrate yourself at the service of others, in the building of a better world, not as someone who does so, through constraint, but of free will.

In the Act of Praying

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”

Jesus (Matthew, 7:9)

An earthly father, despite the understandable deficiencies of the human condition, never offer a stone to his son who asks for bread.

Certainly, in examining this or that request, he will consider the imperatives of time, circumstances, needs, or places.

If the son is still a child, he does not give him dynamite to play with it, because the boy formulates the plea while soaking in tears. If the son lies disturbed, he does not give him the direction of the family because he collects moving petitions.

In case when the son, several times, has left the house in ruins, through criminal acts, he will not immediately restore to him the government of domestic affairs, just because he is surrounded by supplications. Finally, if the child remains behind in school progress, he does not allow prolonged gifts, only because he hears touching requests.

In no case will he annihilate the hopes of his descendants, but, in their interest, he will grant them this or that, consulting their convenience and security until they have

risen to the level of maturity, responsibility, worthiness and the ability that will assure them the freedom to ask for what they wish.

It happens the same to earthly parents...

Hence, if you experience distrust and restlessness in the act of praying, simply because you cry and suffer, remember the compassion and discernment that already preside over the human home, and do not disbelieve the perfect and infinite mercy of the Heavenly Father.

167
Legion

*Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
(Mark, 5:9)*

With consciences burdened with guilt and mistakes from numerous reincarnations, it would be fair for us to ponder the answer of the troubled and unhappy spirit to the Master's question.

Even today, in approaching the Lord, we inevitably recognize ourselves, not only in tune with various groups of companions as indebted as we are, but also in lamentable intimate dispersion, as if we were a bundle of contradictory personalities.

In contact with the lessons of Jesus, we usually find ourselves still versatile and counterproductive.

We believe in the power of the truth, while experiencing serious obstacles to let go of the lie; we teach beneficence, while bound to deep selfishness; we emphasize the merits of sacrifice for the happiness of others, while clinging to personal advantages; we handle gentleness when it comes to warnings for others, and we unleash unexpected anger if someone causes us slight harm.

We proclaim the need for the spirit of service, reserving for our neighbor unpleasant tasks. We fight for peace in the

neighboring homes, forgetting to guarantee tranquility in our own homes. We want our brother to ignore the blows of evil that ruin his existence, and we are ready to complain against the pinprick that hurts us lightly; we emphasize the respect that is due to the Divine Designs and make pompous nonsensical demands, when the least of our whims presents itself.

Yes, in general, we are individually, before Jesus, the legion of mistakes that we have already committed in the past and of those that we cultivate in the present; of the errors that we assimilate and the ones that we approve to accommodate ourselves to the situations that favor us.

168
Test

“Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”
(Mark, 5:19)

The words of Christ to the obsessed person, restored to his equilibrium, make us think.

Jesus initially does not allow him to accompany them, in the apostolate of the Good News, boasting, in public, the joy which he was feeling.

Instead of rejoicing in advance, he suggests he returns to his home environment to reveal to his family members the benefits he received before the Divine Providence.

Undoubtedly, with such a lesson, the Lord urges us to recognize that it is in the most intimate circle, whether at home or in the profession, that falls to us to demonstrate the solidity of acquired virtues.

This is because announcing superior principles through practical application to the renewal they impose on us with those who know our deficiencies, is the real formula for testing our ability to convey them successfully on a wider and higher plane.

The indication leaves no doubt.

If we have already approached Christ, assimilating his messages of eternal life, let us try to communicate them through the language of example, first of all to our own, to those who share our manners and habits, our difficulties and joys.

If approved in the domestic school, where we are more rigorously policed as to the real use of the noble teachings, we will find ourselves frankly qualified for the testimony of the Lord, with humanity, our greatest family.

Household Witness

So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Paul - (Galatians, 6:10)

The apostle Paul, when recommending special affection for the family of our faith, kept in view the inescapable obligation of immediate assistance to those who live with us.

If we are not useful and understanding, affable and devoted, together with some companions, how can we witness the experience of Jesus' lessons before Humanity?

We admit, though, in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine, that the apostolic warning has a deeper meaning.

It is because, among our domestics, there are particularly the bonds of past existences, many of them demanding readjustment and cleaning.

In the team of daily family members, they commonly form those Spirits who, by our past commitments, supervise, criticize, warn and experience us.

It's always easy to make a good impression on someone who does not deprive us intimately. In a gesture or a sentence, we unexpectedly elicit the applause or

admiration of those who find us exclusively in the brushed landscape of social acts.

Faced with friends who take their leave of us after a solemn or formal meeting, it is not difficult to fall clumsily under the hypnosis of flattery, with which we try to exaggerate our surface virtues.

But let us examine our moral achievements, demonstrating them before those who know our weaknesses.

Let us not delude ourselves.

Let us do good to everyone, but let us prove to ourselves if we are already good, by doing good, despite all embarrassments, in front of those who daily accompany our life, policing our behavior between good and evil.

Personal Account

“So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”

Paul (Romans, 14:12)

If you propose to renew yourself with Christ, it is imperative that you patiently bear with the contradictory opinions about the different guidelines to which you are attached.

If some mistake points you to the past, many will believe you with your feet down in the shadow that, long ago, you banished from the spirit; if you express a vow of inner improvement, despite the natural deficiencies that still mark your beginnings in evangelical learning, some demand shows of grandeur from you, from one moment to the next.

If you are willing to work more intensely in helping your fellows, some see waste in your gestures of generosity and beneficence.

If you can give nothing more to the needy than the crumbs of your scant material reserves, some accuse you of stinginess.

If you resolutely correct yourself before the truth to serve it, some interpret your spontaneity as fanaticism, and if you devote yourself to gentleness and serenity in the execution

of the task that the Lord's service assigns to you, some point to you as an example of laziness or indolence...

Despite all the antagonistic opinions regarding your efforts and conduct, enter into the depths of your soul and observe whether sincerity is presiding over your resolutions and actions in the forum of your conscience.

If you recognize yourself, before the Lord, doing the best you can, keep your heart calm, and with a clean effort and an upright attitude, go on your way certain that **"Each one of us will give an account of himself to God."**

Patience Under Study

*“In your patience ye shall win your souls.”
Jesus (Luke, 21:19)*

We all need patience with one another, but it is incumbent upon all of us to study patience in its educational function.

Patience!

It is serenity; calm, still, is not an approval to unbalance. It is comprehension; understanding, however, is not a passport to abuse.

It is harmonization; adjustment, but not support for delinquency.

It is tolerance; gentleness, but not connivance with deliberate error.

Patience, above all, is the ability to verify the difficulty or the mistake in the gears of everyday life, seeking the solution of the problem, or the transposition of the obstacle, without touches of fanfare and splinters of irritation.

In all aspects of patience, we remember Jesus.

The Master was the paradigm of such virtue in the world, but He was not a conformist.

He never became passive in the face of evil, although he

endured its manifestations, seeking ways to renew everything for the good.

Let us remind his sincerity and frankness; we cannot forget that Christ showed so much patience that he did not hesitate to return, after death, to the society that had abandoned him.

Even so, it is necessary to recognize that He materialized before the disciples who, in the majority, could be illiterate and fearful, but sufficiently sincere to continue his liberating work.

It was not in front of the Pharisees, highly intellectualized and profoundly knowledgeable of divine revelations, but habitually mired in conveniences and prejudices and, for that very reason, capable of omitting the truth and establishing the disturbance.

Prayer and Cooperation

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your unseen Father. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Jesus (Matthew, 6:6)

If the answer we expect to prayer seems delayed, we usually become upset and bitter.

We proclaim that we have mortgaged all the strength of our spirit to trust in Divine Providence and cry out, at the same time, that the tribulations have become worse.

We say we are faithful to God and claim to be forgotten. It is important to note though, that the trial does not reach exclusively us.

Our difficulties are the difficulties of our group.

Family members and companions suffer with us the impact of unpleasant occurrences, as much as the friction of daily life for sustaining the common harmony.

If for us, who claim to be grounded in superior knowledge, the mortifications of the path take on the aspect of slow ordeals, what will they not be for those of our loved ones, still unsure of their spiritual formation?

Let us understand that if in the extinction of our little

problems, we request the maximum protection from the Lord, it is natural that the Lord should ask us for the minimum in the suppression of the great misfortunes that afflict our neighbor.

In how many embarrassing situations are we, in fact, the right person for patience and tolerance, for understanding and service?

With this reasoning, we recognize that the worst attitude in any adversity will always be that of the doubt or of the restlessness that we show.

Supposing that the solution of Heaven is on the way, after we have begged the favor of the Infinite Goodness, let us remember that if the hour of crisis is the time of the fight, it is also the occasion for the best testimonies of faith.

If we demand the Lord's help for our benefit, it is perfectly just that the Lord should ask us for some support, in favor of those who are afflicted near us.

Feuds and Complaints

*“Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”
(James, 3:10)*

We commonly believe that problems of justice only arise when serious issues bring us to court.

Justice, however, is a lively matter of every day and, every hour, we need it to guarantee peace, as much as we need air to sustain existence.

In the smallest acts, we use justice to ensure general harmony.

We know the significance of the place we occupy in a single row and we know how to respect it for the maintenance of order.

We are all concordant to obey, spontaneously, the precepts of traffic, conforming to the essential stops for public road safety.

We do not ignore the obligation to comply with the warnings that govern the use of electricity in a specific appliance, so that we do not compromise domestic integrity.

In good conscience, no one will disdain the rights of the

neighbor, if he does not want his rights despised.

We remember similar images of everyday life to remind us that in our indispositions and resentments, we must also think about the tranquility of others, of all those who share our daily experience, so that we do not come to rob them hope and courage, breaking their spirits and disturbing their service.

Let us avoid quarrels and complaints.

To safeguard the balance of collective life and home life, we obey instructions and signs, regulations and warnings, based on human experience. And to immunize our intimate life against disturbances and prejudices, the Divine Providence has granted us control of thought and the government of language.

Friends of Jesus

“You are my friends if you do what I command.”

Jesus (John, 15:14)

Everywhere Christ has:

Legions of admirers, but the tyrants of Humanity also acquired them; multitudes of partisans, however, the executioners of nations likewise had them; groups of incensers, but the promoters of the wars of assault and extermination also knew their adulation.

He has ranks of intransigent defenders, but the enemies of progress likewise enumerated them together; analyst assemblies, though, the misguided chiefs, who passed through the eminences of history, still count on them today.

JESUS, until now, is surrounded among the most cultured peoples on Earth, with countless believers and fanatics, followers and interpreters, worshipers and adversaries, but the contractors of disorder and cruelty also find them.

It is easy to recognize that the commanders of disturbance and delinquency do not know friends, since time takes care of placing them at the right point in life, extinguishing the hypnosis of illusion with which they join their companions.

Christ, nevertheless, has real friends, who multiply in all regions of the terrestrial planet, as the centuries overlap with the crucifixion.

And those friends that exist, in the midst of all philosophies and beliefs, are not distinguished only by exterior legends, but, above all, because they are associated with him, in Spirit and Truth, understanding his lessons and practicing his teachings.

In the Fellowship of Christ

*“If you love me, keep my commands.”
(John, 14:15.)*

Undoubtedly, there are several attitudes by which we denote our position before Christ.

It will always be easy for us to:

Admit his greatness and give him honors;

Study his lessons and pass on his teachings;

Fall in love with his apostolate and exalt his personality in artistic values;

Accept its revelations and defend them vehemently;

Receive his concessions and sing his praises;

Identify its power and respect its influence;

Recognize his goodness and form, in his cult, among the best worshippers;

Understand his tolerance and abuse of his name..

All this, indeed, will be possible for us, without the slightest constraint, in the field of external manifestations.

Nonetheless, to enjoy the intimacy of Jesus and feel it in the heart it is essential to love him and share his work and life.

That is why the Divine Master was clear and unmistakable when he assured the apprentices that only those who love him will know how to walk his path and keep his commandments.

On the Day of Uncertainty

*“But we have the mind of Christ.”
Paul (1 Corinthians 2:16)*

For any of us, there comes a time of great hesitation.

We have been working for a long time toward a certain achievement, and suddenly all our effort seems lost...

We look for guidance in the example of someone, whom we accept as possessing virtue enough to guide our lives, and this someone fails disastrously at the very moment when we most need his light...

We counted on certain resources to fulfill various commitments, and these resources, sort of evaporate, leaving us bitterly frustrated...

We had retained valuable elements that guaranteed us security and tranquility and, due to ineluctable circumstances, we find ourselves deprived of them, left in the ordeal, without joy and direction...

We are all surprised by the cloudy day of uncertainty, in which we are perplexed.

Inside, anxiety; outside, consternation...

However, let us not feel alone.

We have the mind of Christ, the Divine Master of the Soul.
Let us ask Jesus for a path and sustenance.

The hour of uncertainty is, above all, the hour of prayer.
When the shadow arrives, it is the moment to make light.

In the Adjustment Sphere

“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
Jesus (John, 3:7)

Difficulties and trials may be the landmarks that mark your road today.

Still, let us strive, through reincarnation, to rectify the errors and to repay the debts of yesterday, so that the light of truth and the support of harmony may brighten our path, tomorrow...

The intricate issue that troubles you now is often the problem that you abandoned without a solution among friends who, at another time, surrendered, trusting your will.

The complicated relative that you think you carry, out of a spirit of heroism, as a rule, is the same creature that, at another time, you threw yourself into despair and disturbance.

Noble ideals, for which you tolerate aggression and mockery, considering yourself misunderstood as a worker of progress, on many occasions, are those same principles that you once trampled underfoot, insulting the sincerity of the companions who were associated with them.

The calumnies you bear, believing yourself to have been raised to the heights of virtue by the patience you display, are usually nothing more than the return of the insults you carried out, in other eras, against defenseless brothers.

Past failures look for you to be responsible, in the body, in the family, in society, or the profession, asking you to readjust.

"You must be born again," Jesus told us.

Therefore, blessing reincarnation, let us commit ourselves to work and learn again, with attention and sincerity, so we may build and get things right.

Opponents and Delinquents

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way,

Jesus (Matthew 5:25)

Jesus asked us for immediate reconciliation with our adversaries, so that our prayers be directed to God, freed from any demeaning feelings.

We are not ignorant that the adversaries are our opponents or, more appropriately, those who have points of view contrary to ours. And many of them, arguably, is in conditions far superior to ours, in certain angles of service and merit. Thus, we do not have the right to trample on them, but the duty to respect and cooperate with them in the work of welfare, even though we cannot embrace them in an integrated framework of opinions.

There are companions, however, who, addicted to systematic slackness, under the pretext of humility, are absent from any subject in which they seek to curb the domination of evil, forgetting that our delinquent brothers are sick people in need of support and intervention compatible with the dangers they present to the community.

All those who carry out any leadership role know perfectly well that it is necessary to be vigilant in

defending the work that life has entrusted to them.

It is imperative to keep in harmony with all those who do not think for our principles, though in the position of responsible creatures, we cannot pass indifferently in front of an obsessed brother, who is throwing poison into water deposits intended for collective sustenance.

We need to respect the owners of the building that serves as our residence, every time they cannot read the world's problems through the booklet of our ideas, however, it will not be fair to lose interest in general security if we see one of them setting fire to the building.

Christ, in truth, in the 25th verse of chapter 5, of the Gospel of Matthew, tells us:

“Reconcile yourself quickly to your adversary”, but in verse 2 of chapter 16 of the Gospel of Luke, he did not forget to add: **“Give an account of your stewardship”**.

Discern and Correct

“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
Jesus (Matthew, 7:2)

You saw the friend in need and commented on his position...

He possessed expressive resources and, perhaps by accident, fell into painful penury...

He takes advantage of superior knowledge and hurts your sensibilities by plunging yourself into terrible precipices of the heart which, sometimes, the least of the less educated can easily avoid...

He had opportunities for improvement, which thousands of creatures dream of in vain, and he proceeded recklessly as if he did not retain the advantages that shine in his hands...

He enjoys a distinguished environment, capable of lifting him to heights, and prefers to ignore the circumstances that favor him, plunging himself into the shadow of negative attitudes...

He maintained valuable possibilities of spiritual elevation, in the raising of sublime apostolates, and he became entangled in obsessive plots that exhausted his

strength...

All this, indeed, you can observe and refer to.
Enter, nonetheless, the sphere of understanding itself, and
be aware that you can't enter immediately into the field of
causes.

We do not know what our behavior would have been on
the path of our companion in difficulty, with the sum of the
problems that weigh on his spirit.

Do not allow yourself, therefore, to think or act, in front of
him, without the fraternity commanding you the
definitions.

Even in the absolute enlightenment that, in many cases,
demands austerity on ourselves, it is possible to provide the
remedy for weakness to the sick of the soul, through the
vehicle of compassion, as surgery is piously administered
to the injured.

If we can discern good from evil, it is because we already
know evil and good and if the Lord allows us to identify the
needs of others, it is because, in one way or another, we can
already help.

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God Bless You

*“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know
about the grace of God.”
Paul (II Corinthians, 8:1.)*

You believe yourself fragile, but God will supply you with energy.

You recognize your limitation, but God will give you growth.

You assert yourself without courage, but God gives you courage.

You declare yourself poor, but you have the infinite riches of God.

Let us understand, however, that the process of assimilating divine resources will always be service to others.

Do not, therefore, plead weakness, inability, discouragement, or penury to give up the place that belongs to you in the edifice of good.

For the time of optimism with which you support the work of your companions, God bless you.

For the silent gesture with which you prop up the general

balance, God bless you.

For the charitable and enlightening phrase with which you assure fraternal understanding, God bless you.

For the crumb of help or time you spend supporting the needy, God bless you.

For the attitude of tolerance and serenity, in the face of misunderstanding, God bless you.

We live, without a doubt, with heroic souls, qualified to the highest testimonies of faith in God, through the sacrifice for the happiness of others, but God who blesses the river capable of guaranteeing the harvest of the countryside also blesses the drop of dew that quenches the rose's thirst. If mistakes and mistakes marked the way for us until yesterday, let us turn to God with sincerity, rebuilding hope and bearing without regret the accusations of the way.

Man, sometimes, passes in disgust, in front of the pond, without realizing that God encouraged the lilies that enchant his table in the pond.

On the face of it, if someone scolds you, listen patiently. If there is wisdom in reproof, he takes counsel; if the reproach is unjust, keep the soul calm, in the cleansing of the conscience. In any difficulty, build your confidence, working and serving with joy, in the invariable certainty that God sees you and blesses you.

