

THE HIDDEN SIDE OF PRAYER

A TALK IN THE PRO-ECCLESIA BY MR. HEINDEL*

*We have met here this evening for a double purpose; first, because it is Sunday and we hold our usual Rosicrucian Temple Service; then because the Moon is tonight in a cardinal sign we hold also the Healing meeting. In this connection it is very important to bear in mind the fact that students of the Rosicrucian Fellowship, located all over the world, have today concentrated their thoughts upon this Pro-Ecclesia for the very same purpose which we are now endeavoring to accomplish, namely: To generate thoughts of help and healing, to focus them in one common direction so that they may be available to aid the Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucian Order in their beneficent work for Humanity.

But if we really want to accomplish something in that direction, we ought to have a very definite and clear understanding of what our object is and what are the means of accomplishing it. It is not enough that we know in a vague way of the sickness and suffering that is in the world and that we have a dim and hazy idea of helping and alleviating this suffering, whether it is bodily or mental. We must do something definite to attain our object, and therefore it will be well to place before our minds an illustration that may help us. Let us suppose that one of our buildings is on fire, a lot of trash has been accumulating in a corner and by spontaneous combustion it has finally become a fire. We have hose, water, and a nozzle so that we may play upon the fire and endeavor to put it out. But to do this we must first turn on the water and point the nozzle straight; also the stream of water must be adequate to cope with the fire. It will not help us at all if we just turn the stream half on, or have a small stream and squirt it hither and thither. We must aim it straight at the heart of the fire and it must be adequate in force and volume to cope with the burning material. If we have these requisites, we shall be able to put out the fire in the building, and thus we have accomplished our purpose by the proper use of efficient means.

Healing of sickness offers a perfect analogy, for any disease, we may say, is really a fire, the *Invisible Fire* which is *The Father*, endeavoring to break up the crystallized conditions which we have gathered in our body. We recognize fever as a fire, but tumors, cancers, everything else is really also the effect of that invisible fire, that endeavors to purge the system and purify it from a condition which we have brought about by breaking the laws of nature. Now for the Healing thoughts; this very same power, which is endeavoring slowly to purge the body, can be greatly augmented by proper concentration, and that is what prayer really is, provided we have the proper conditions.

To illustrate what these conditions are, we will take the waterspout as an example. You may not have seen this phenomenon of nature but it is wonderful and awe-inspiring. Usually, at the time when it occurs, the skies seem to hang very low over the water; there is a tense feeling in the air of depression or concentration, and gradually it seems as if a

* Portions of this talk, contained in the August 1915 *Rays*, and an earlier talk presented in the July 1915 *Rays*, served as the basis for Healing Service text.

point in the sky reaches down toward the water, and the waves in a certain spot seem to leap upwards until both sky and water meet in a swirling mass.

Something similar takes place when a person or a number of persons are in earnest prayer. All the forces in nature which do our work here are only working in the ether—electricity, the expansive force in steam, etc., all are ethereal—but there are forces in the universe far more potent and subtle, among them *thought power*. When a person is intensely earnest in supplication to a Higher Power, his aura seems to form itself into a funnel-shaped thing which resembles the lower part of the water spout. This leaps up into space a great distance and, being attuned to the Christ vibration of the interplanetary World of Life Spirit, it draws thence a divine power which enters the man, or company of men and ensouls the thought form which they have created. Thus the object for which they united will be accomplished.

But let this be borne thoroughly in mind, that the process of praying or concentrating is not simply a cold intellectual process. *There must be an amount of feeling adequate to accomplish the desired object*, as a certain volume of water was required to quench the fire, and *unless this intensity of feeling is present, the object will not be accomplished, any more than a small stream of water will quench a large fire*.

This is the secret of all the miraculous prayers which have ever been recorded: the person who prayed for something was always *intensely in earnest*; his whole being went into the desire for this or that thing which he wished for, and thus he lifted himself up into the very realms of the divine and brought down the response from the Father.

Last year we had a case of that very kind at headquarters. One of the workers had been hurt in an automobile accident and sustained concussion of the brain. That night we all joined in silent supplication to our Father in Heaven, here in this very Pro-Ecclesia, that she might be healed and helped. The writer then distinctly perceived the intensity of feeling and how it gave rise to that funnel shaped lower part of the channel, which brought down the divine response, and that evening the consciousness returned, something that is more than unusual in annals of such cases.

We also find that in certain holy communities, such as, for instance, “the round table of King Arthur,” or in a circle of spiritualists, a similar condition is brought about. The sitters in the circle first became attuned to a common vibration by singing certain songs. And having been thus united, they form a *single auric funnel* which then brings down whatever they desire, according to the intensity of their wishes and their concentration.

This spiritual vibration is so powerful that sometimes it may be transmitted to and remain around even seemingly inanimate objects; for instance, many people have noticed, some have even been overcome by, the powerful vibrations at the organ here. You will notice that there is a copy of Hoffman’s Christ over the organ. There is no doubt in the speaker’s mind, that when Hoffman painted this picture, he felt very intensely the position and the feeling of the Christ in Gethsemane; therefore there clung to his picture a representation of that same auric channel. This would not stay by, or be reproduced in a printed copy of the picture, but the picture here in the Pro-Ecclesia, being painted by one of our members who entered into the feeling of the original artist and was equipped with an understanding of the secret of the Christ’s suffering in that lonely hour, has also brought this same channel into his picture and therefore the vibrations are felt emanating therefrom.

All this teaches us that such a force is available and it may be used scientifically with much greater effect than if we use it in a haphazard manner, vaguely desiring this, that, or the other thing. But there is a great danger also of misusing this wonderful power; therefore, we should always qualify our supplications for others, with the words of the Christ: "Not my will, but thine." Otherwise, we are liable to cause injury where we would help. You probably notice that I said "our supplications *for others*." Let this idea sink deep down in our minds: that we ought never to ask anything for ourselves. That is superfluous; the Christ has given us assurance that if we "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all other things shall be added" unto us. We have also the promise in the Bible "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want" and many years' experience has demonstrated to the speaker that this is an actual fact, that if we work with the law, *for others*, then the law will take care of us, for we are workers *with it*, and the great reason why prayer is not being heard today is that the supplicants are always asking for *something for themselves*, contrary to the common good. If we are looking out for ourselves and always trying to get the best for ourselves, regardless of everyone else, then it is not necessary for Our Father in Heaven to take care of us; but the moment we place ourselves in His hands and think of how we may do His work, how we may accomplish His will on earth, as it is being done in Heaven, then we become co-workers with Him, workers in His vineyard. It then devolves upon Him to take care of us, and we may then rest in full trust that everything that is necessary for our material or spiritual comfort will be forthcoming; nor will the measure be small, scant or mean, but we shall receive full measure, pressed down and overflowing. With these thoughts we will now enter the silence and for ten minutes focus our minds upon the object for which we have gathered, "To help and to heal our suffering fellowmen, particularly those who have applied to headquarters for aid in their distress.