

DYNAMICS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By

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I understand there are mailing lists available to mail order businesses in this country coded to indicate the likelihood of response, based on the addressees past record on accepting mail order offers. If this is the case (and I have reason to believe it is!) then my name must be printed in capital letters, underlined in red, with several asterisks. I am a coupon clipper. I save boxtops. I collect labels -- two of each variety -- and mail them off. I read with interest the little box ads in the backs of magazines. This predilection carries with it certain notoriety, as I discovered one day when our mail man met us on the way out and said, in a rather dour tone, "Your handy-dandy pear slicer just arrived." As a result of my ways computers from all over the country write to me personally, "Dear Mrs. Grimsley of Arch Street" they say. And each one encloses a personalized number which may already have been selected for the grand prize if only I will send it in. I send it in. I don't win anything, but the computer puts another asterisk by my name and the next week three new computers start writing to me.

Mind you, I don't keep up a perfect correspondence with my computers. Most of the time I can barely keep up with people correspondence, let alone computers, and I do still give priority to people. But now and again in a fit of energy I go through a pile of envelopes because hope springs eternal in the human breast and in the back of my mind I reason that surely, someday, MY number will be selected, and I better do my part.

This morning's topic is Spiritual Dynamics, not computer correspondence, but there is one similarity. In both cases an action response on the part of the individual is required. You have to follow the rules. You have to return your card. You have to do your part.

One of my computers wrote to me recently saying: "Dear Mrs. Grimsley. Frankly, we are puzzled. It only takes a minute, yet even though we have made it so easy, only 80 or 90 people out of 1,000 return their sweepstakes entries." That is about a 9% return. While I hasten to acknowledge that there is little comparison between the results of a computer sweepstakes and the results of spiritual growth, still this does point up a basic human problem.

Mortals appear to have an amazing proclivity to put off doing the right thing. We read that procrastination is one of the traits which must be eradicated during the Morontia life; one of the Morontia Mota strikes a familiar cord in

* saying: "The weak indulge in resolutions, the strong act." It isn't easy. Our world has never been easy. Even in the early days when the seven mind adjutants were first beginning to function we are told that URANTIA was the second most difficult planet in all of Nebadon for them to contact. Yet, in spite of the difficulties, it must seem rather incredible to the spiritual administrators that so many people can spend so much time and so much energy doing so many projects that have little or nothing to do with our eternal destiny, and that mortals will put off doing work on the spiritual life.

Spiritual growth requires action. Just as in a computer sweepstakes you have to follow the rules, so it is with spiritual growth. You have to check the rules and follow them. However, there is one important difference. Persistence in a computer sweepstakes may never pay off; there's only one grand prize. But persistence in the desire for spiritual growth will always pay off. In fact, it's the best sort of deal available to us because it's a sure thing. Every participant will win the grand prize.

The URANTIA Book defines action at one point as a decision validated. I would like to suggest this as a principle in the dynamics of spiritual growth: action. In fact, the lesson to be learned might be summed up in two words: DO IT. Or maybe in three words: DO IT NOW.