

21
STEPS
TO A
SPIRITUAL
AWAKENING

A STUDY GUIDE
BASED UPON
THE URANTIA BOOK

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PREFACE

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TO A
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BASED UPON
THE URANTIA BOOK

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PREFACE

WHAT ARE THE 21 STEPS?

The *21 Steps* are a living spiritual program based upon passages in *The URANTIA Book*. This program, if lived, will help you to know God with increasing depth and power.

The *21 Steps* are divided into four groups:

I. Necessary Attitudes

Steps 1 through 3 explain the underlying attitudes that make spiritual growth possible.

II. Entering the Kingdom

Steps 4 through 9 concern the processes of faith which carry us into the spiritual kingdom.

III. Sustaining Growth

Steps 10 through 12 concern the practices which sustain and confirm our spiritual commitment.

IV. Enjoying and Sharing the Fruits of Spiritual Growth

Steps 13 through 21 describe the inevitable results of our expanding spiritual experience.

The *21 Steps* should not be considered a creed; they are not a theological statement. Rather, they are a compilation of spiritual truths that have emerged after years of studying *The URANTIA Book*.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PERSONALLY

Consider our efforts here as incomplete. There may be other passages in *The URANTIA Book* which better illustrate the steps from your perspective. There may also be additional steps that you have found important. We urge you to add such personal steps to this booklet — the more changes and illustrations you add, the closer this booklet will represent your own spiritual search.

The key is to live the program; we urge you to interact with the principles described in this booklet. Each step represents a basic principle of spiritual living, and it is the process of living, of fearlessly applying each of these principles, that produces spiritual transformation. A careful reading of all 21 steps will give you an excellent overview. Some of these steps, especially the first nine, represent principles that are prerequisite foundations to principles set forth thereafter. You may find the best approach is to begin with step 1 and work on it until you have incorporated

the spirit of this principle into your own spiritual attitude, and then move on to the other steps in sequence and do likewise.

Space has been provided after each step for your own references, whether from *The URANTIA Book*, the Bible, or other writings. You could begin a spiritual diary, and note down the experiences you have had which have made each principle real. This will gradually create a personal, living mosaic of spiritual truth that you will want to share with others, and your additions will have become a powerful testimony to your own unique, creative, and expanding spiritual experience.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM IN A STUDY GROUP

If your study group wishes to study the *21 Steps*, you might begin by reading aloud in turn the selections listed. The moderator should then stimulate personal involvement by the group by asking thought-provoking questions, such as:

- Has anyone had a personal experience related to following this principle that he or she would care to share? Related to the consequences of not following it?
- How does this selection support the principle set forth in the step? What is the underlying meaning of this selection? What is it telling us?
- How important is this principle in a person's life? What would be the consequences of ignoring it?
- How can we apply this principle in our daily lives? What problems are involved in implementing it?
- Does this selection challenge us to change anything about the way we normally live or react?
- Is God promising us anything here? Is he asking anything of us?
- Does this selection give us any fresh, new or unexpected insights into human nature or the human condition? About God and how he relates to us?
- Does this selection describe or illustrate any differences between the divine viewpoint and our own?
- Are there any interesting details in this selection which either contribute to its significance or convey collateral teachings?

URANTIA Book readers almost universally agree that the discussion and interchange of a study group tremendously enhance all aspects of personal study and spiritual search. If you are not fortunate enough to be

presently attending a study group...join one or start one! You won't regret it. If you would like information concerning existing study groups in your area, contact URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL, 60614, (312) 327-0424.

WHAT IS *THE URANTIA BOOK*?

A panoramic description of God and his dealings with us, *The URANTIA Book*, taken as a whole, provides immeasurably greater insight into these principles than can this or any other booklet. There is no substitute for reading the book itself. In particular, the details of Jesus' life impart a cumulative impact by showing us how he met and mastered the same trials of living we all confront.

The notation system for quotations refers to lines on pages of *The URANTIA Book*. Simply count every line down from the top of the page, except for the line containing the page number. For further specificity, the first and last two words in each citation are given in the "Other Selections" sections.

This booklet will have future editions, and your ideas for its improvement with additional references, whether or not from *The URANTIA Book*, would be greatly appreciated. Also, a personal experience is always more powerful than a quotation, and therefore the authors hope to supplement this booklet in the near future with an expanded version containing a number of such personal stories that illustrate the spiritual principles of the steps. If you have had powerful personal experiences related to one or more of the steps, and are willing to have them anonymously included in an expanded edition, send them in to us (fewer than 500 words per experience, please). We will then select perhaps a half dozen of the most helpful stories submitted on each step and include them in a future edition. Send this material to Asoka Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 82009, Oklahoma City, OK 73148, where you may also obtain further information and additional free copies of this booklet.

21 STEPS TO A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I. NECESSARY ATTITUDES

1. RECOGNIZING OUR NEEDS

We recognized the spiritual emptiness of our lives, and admitted our powerlessness, by our own strength, to correct our personal shortcomings. Sincerity has been the foundation of our spiritual search, and essential for progress.

2. BELIEVING IN GOD

We came to believe in God's existence, and recognized his goodness. We came to believe that he indwells us as our spiritual Father and loving Friend.

3. ACCEPTING GOD'S GRACE

We recognized that we could not produce spiritual reactions to life in the absence of divine power. We saw that all spiritual qualities result from grace, and are free gifts of God which we can do nothing to earn, but must only be willing to accept.

II. ENTERING THE KINGDOM

4. ADMITTING OUR SHORTCOMINGS

We acknowledged and sincerely repented our misdeeds. We confessed these wrongs to God and confided in a trusted friend.

5. FORGIVING OTHERS

With God's help, we forgave each person who had ever wronged us.

6. ASKING OTHERS' FORGIVENESS

Without consideration of the emotional or financial cost involved, we asked forgiveness of those we had wronged, and did our best to make full amends to each of them, except where to have done so might have further injured them.

7. ACCEPTING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Having forgiven all others, holding back nothing, we accepted the fullness of God's forgiveness and his spiritual eradication of all our misdeeds and shortcomings.

8. LIVING NEW LIVES

We resolved to live new lives, and to abandon anger, anxiety, impatience, pride and fear. We refused to cling to or nurture these relics of our pasts, and have asked God to remove them. We are promptly admitting our wrongs and refusing to harbor feelings of guilt.

9. COMMITTING OURSELVES

We counted the cost and determined that the only life worth living is one based on truth and dedicated to our loving heavenly Father. We wholeheartedly committed every aspect of our lives to God and to doing his will.

III. SUSTAINING GROWTH

10. PRAYING

Through faith, prayer, meditation, worship and spiritual communion, we are improving our conscious contact with God, and are sharing our inner lives with him.

11. BALANCING PHYSICAL WITH SPIRITUAL

We passed through conflict as God gradually empowered us to become more willing to exchange material for spiritual goals. We are better balancing our human needs with our lives in the spirit.

12. PERSISTING IN OUR SEARCH

We are persisting in our search, trusting in God's schedule for our spiritual enlightenment. We are seeking the wisdom to know and the courage to do God's will in all things.

IV. FRUITS OF GROWTH

13. GAINING PERSPECTIVE

We are coming to appreciate the inevitabilities and compensations of life, realizing that we are part of a gigantic creation. We are being strengthened by our spiritual assurance that we have embarked on an eternal life in which we will grow progressively more like God.

14. GAINING FAITH

We are gaining faith that God's plan for us is incomparably better than any of our own devising, and that our highest happiness and adventure consist in seeking to do his will. We are experiencing the spiritual liberty of accepting our Father's responsibility for the outcome of events we undertake in faith.

15. EXPERIENCING ASSURANCE

We are better appreciating God's ceaseless fostering of our spiritual growth. We are becoming more fully assured of our Father's unconditional love, and have begun to experience that inner peace which passes understanding.

16. DEEPENING FELLOWSHIP

We are sharing our spiritual lives more fully with each other. We are growing more unified in friendship and increasingly appreciate, enjoy, respect, trust and rely on each other.

17. SERVING OTHERS

We are working together more earnestly to serve our fellows in lasting ways, recognizing that we thus serve and honor our Father in heaven.

18. SHARING OUR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

We more willingly accept our obligation and privilege to help share the good news, and are striving to carry this knowledge of God's love to our fellows.

19. LOVING EACH OTHER

We are increasingly valuing others as beloved sons and daughters of God, and are striving to love each of them as does our Father in heaven.

20. LOVING JESUS

We are coming to know and love Jesus, and our friendship with him increasingly gives our lives energy, enthusiasm, warmth and purpose.

21. LOVING GOD

As a result of sincerely striving to live these principles of the spiritual life, we are growing in our knowledge, love and worship of the heavenly Father, the Source of that infinite love which created and ever sustains us.

21 STEPS TO A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

STEP 1
RECOGNIZING
OUR NEEDS

We recognized the spiritual emptiness of our lives, and admitted our powerlessness, by our own strength, to correct our personal shortcomings. Sincerity has been the foundation of our spiritual search, and essential for progress.

REFERENCES:

The Father is not in spiritual hiding, but so many of his creatures have hidden themselves away in the mists of their own willful decisions and for the time being have separated themselves from the communion of his spirit and the spirit of his Son by the choosing of their own perverse ways and by the indulgence of the self-assertiveness of their intolerant minds and unspiritual natures. 64:6

Too often, all too often, you mar your minds by insincerity and scar them with unrighteousness; you subject them to animal fear and distort them by useless anxiety. 103:32

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: sincerity, more sincerity, and more sincerity. 435:45

Spiritual progress is predicated on intellectual recognition of spiritual poverty coupled with the self-consciousness of perfection-hunger, the desire to know God and be like him, the wholehearted purpose to do the will of the Father in heaven.

Spiritual growth is first an awakening to needs, next a discernment of meanings, and then a discovery of values. 1095:36

"Ganid, the man was not hungry for truth. He was not dissatisfied with himself. He was not ready to ask for help, and the eyes of his mind were not open to receive light for the soul. That man was not ripe for the harvest of salvation; he must be allowed more time for the trials and difficulties of life to prepare him for the reception of wisdom and higher learning." 1466:15

Only those who feel poor in spirit will ever hunger for righteousness. Only the humble seek for divine strength and crave spiritual power. 1574:7

"[Job] ascended to those spiritual heights where he could sincerely say, 'I abhor myself'; then was there granted him the salvation of a vision of God." 1663:9

Never hesitate to admit failure. Make no attempt to hide failure under deceptive smiles and beaming optimism. It sounds well always to claim success, but the end results are appalling. Such a technique leads directly to the creation of a world of unreality and to the inevitable crash of ultimate disillusionment.

Success may generate courage and promote confidence, but wisdom comes only from the experiences of adjustment to the results of one's failures. Men who prefer optimistic illusions to reality can never become wise. Only those who face facts and adjust them to ideals can achieve wisdom.... Those timid souls who can only keep up the struggle of life by the aid of continuous false illusions of success are doomed to suffer failure and experience defeat as they ultimately awaken from the dream world of their own imaginations. 1779:37

"But the publican, standing afar off, would not so much as lift his eyes to heaven but smote his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.'" 1838:24

Selfish men and women simply will not pay such a price for even the greatest spiritual treasure ever offered mortal man. Only when man has become sufficiently disillusioned by the sorrowful disappointments attendant upon the foolish and deceptive pursuits of selfishness, and subsequent to the discovery of the barrenness of formalized religion, will he be disposed to turn wholeheartedly to the gospel of the kingdom, the religion of Jesus of Nazareth. 2083:20

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 1090:7 to 14 (During the...philosophic chaos.)
- 1118:27 to 38 (The work...full-grown man.)
- 1206:23 to 30 (Confusion, being...immortal soul.)
- 1443:23 to 24 ("God never...is truth.)
- 1445:27 (The Lord...in truth.)
- 1561:43 to 48 (Jesus enjoyed...honest doubters.)
- 1571:37 to 39 (In gaining...sincere intentions.)
- 1573:42 to 1574:16 (1. "Happy are...to do?")
- 1663:1 to 14 ("Although transgression...human understanding.)
- 1779:35 to 1780:2 (But life...own imaginations.)
- 1838:10 to 28 (On the...be exalted.")
- 1960:26 to 29 (Phillip, you...words fulfilled.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

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STEP 2
BELIEVING
IN GOD

We came to believe in
God's existence, and
recognized his goodness.
We came to believe that he indwells
us as our spiritual Father and
loving Friend.

REFERENCES:

But you cannot become so absolutely certain of a fellow being's reality as you can of the reality of the presence of God that lives within you. 195:45

Thus it may be seen that religious longings and spiritual urges are not of such a nature as would merely lead men to *want* to believe in God, but rather are they of such nature and power that men are profoundly impressed with the conviction that they *ought* to believe in God. The sense of evolutionary duty and the obligations consequent upon the illumination of revelation make such a profound impression upon man's moral nature that he finally reaches that position of mind and that attitude of soul where he concludes that he *has no right not to believe in God*. The higher and superphilosophic wisdom of such enlightened and disciplined individuals ultimately instructs them that to doubt God or distrust his goodness would be to prove untrue to the *reallest* and *deepest* thing within the human mind and soul — the divine Adjuster. 1105:34

God is so all real and absolute that no material sign of proof or no demonstration of so-called miracle may be offered in testimony of his reality. Always will we know him because we trust him, and our belief in him is wholly based on our personal participation in the divine manifestations of his infinite reality. 1119:17

Of God, the most inescapable of all presences, the most real of all facts, the most living of all truths, the most loving of all friends, and the most divine of all values, we have the right to be the most certain of all universe experiences. 1127:18

Men all too often forget that God is the greatest experience in human existence. Other experiences are limited in their nature and content, but the experience of God has no limits save those of the creature's comprehension capacity, and this very experience is in itself capacity enlarging. When men search for God, they are searching for everything. When they find God, they have found everything. 1289:14

While sojourning at Amathus, Jesus spent much time with the apostles instructing them in the new concept of God; again and again did he impress upon them that *God is a Father*, not a great and supreme bookkeeper who is chiefly engaged in making damaging entries against his erring children on earth, recordings of sin and evil to be used against them when he subsequently sits in judgment upon them as the just Judge of all creation. 1590:25

There are several entire sets of papers which particularly illuminate the nature and character of God, and his relationship to us. They are:

- Paper 1: The Universal Father, p. 21
- Paper 2: The Nature of God, p. 33
- Paper 3: The Attributes of God, p. 44
- Paper 4: God's Relation to the Universe, p. 54
- Paper 5: God's Relation to the Individual, p. 62

- Paper 100: Religion in Human Experience, p. 1094
- Paper 101: The Real Nature of Religion, p. 1104
- Paper 102: The Foundations of Religious Faith, p. 1118
- Paper 103: The Reality of Religious Experience, p. 1129

- Paper 107: Origin and Nature of Thought Adjusters, p. 1176
- Paper 108: Mission and Ministry of Thought Adjusters, p. 1185
- Paper 109: Relation of Adjusters to Universe Creatures, p. 1195
- Paper 110: Relation of Adjusters to Individual Mortals, p. 1203
- Paper 111: The Adjuster and the Soul, p. 1215

Paper 131: The World's Religions, p. 1442

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 362:30 to 364:17 (4. GOD'S RELATION TO A LOCAL UNIVERSE)
- 454:15 to 29 (Thus, in...divine perfection.)
- 936:18 to 23 (Evolutionary religion...the universe.)
- 1066:32 to 1067:3 (Isaiah went...redeemed them.)
- 1068:42 to 1070:19 (No prophet...all-loving Father.)
- 1106:19 to 25 (There are...written word.)
- 1123:5 to 11 (Because of...in you.)
- 1153:20 to 44 (Ever remember...of love.)
- 1597:2 to 1598:4 (There was...Father's kingdom.)
- 1603:47 to 1604:36 (Following that...is perfect.)
- 1664:16 to 26 ("Job was...he is")
- 1675:5 to 1676:24 (It was...and appreciation.)
- 1901:10 to 20 (Then came...the prophets.)
- 2094: 41 to 47 (Unless a...eternal reality.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 3
ACCEPTING
GOD'S GRACE

We recognized that we could not produce spiritual reactions to life in the absence of divine power. We saw that all spiritual qualities result from grace, and are free gifts of God which we can do nothing to earn, but must only be willing to accept.

REFERENCES:

The consciousness of a victorious human life on earth is born of that creature faith which dares to challenge each recurring episode of existence when confronted with the awful spectacle of human limitations, by the unflinching declaration: Even if I cannot do this, there lives in me one who can and will do it, a part of the Father-Absolute of the universe of universes. And that is "the victory which overcomes the world, even your faith." 59:38

This covenant of Melchizedek with Abraham represents the great Urantian agreement between divinity and humanity whereby God agrees to do *everything*; man only agrees to *believe* God's promises and follow his instructions. 1020:43

Man's sole contribution to growth is the mobilization of the total powers of his personality — living faith. 1097:27

Among other things, the Adjuster pleaded "that he more faithfully give me his sincere cooperation, more cheerfully endure the tasks of my emplacement, more faithfully carry out the program of my arrangement, more patiently go through the trials of my selection, more persistently and cheerfully tread the path of my choosing, more humbly receive credit that may accrue as a result of my ceaseless endeavors — thus transmit my admonition to the man of my indwelling." 1213:42

"By the old way you seek to suppress, obey, and conform to the rules of living; by the new way you are first *transformed* by the Spirit of Truth and thereby strengthened in your inner soul by the constant spiritual renewing of your mind, and so are you endowed with the power of the certain and joyous performance of the gracious, acceptable, and perfect will of God. Forget not — it is your personal faith in the exceedingly great and precious promises of God that ensures your becoming partakers of the divine nature." 1609:30

"Your secret of the mastery of self is bound up with your faith in the indwelling spirit, which ever works by love. Even this saving faith you have not of yourselves: it also is the gift of God." 1610:16

In all praying, remember that sonship is a *gift*. No child has aught to do with *earning* the status of son or daughter. The earth child comes into being by the will of its parents. Even so, the child of God comes into grace and the new life of the spirit by the will of the Father in heaven. Therefore must the kingdom of heaven — divine sonship — be *received* as by a little child. You earn righteousness — progressive character development — but you receive sonship by grace and through faith. 1621:5

Your bounties and your blessings have descended upon us,
Thus empowering us to perform your will and execute your bidding.
1623:25

"Salvation is the gift of the Father and is revealed by his Sons. Acceptance by faith on your part makes you a partaker of the divine nature, a son or daughter of God. By faith you are justified; by faith you are saved; and by this same faith are you eternally advanced in the way of progressive and divine perfection." 1682:44

"You cannot buy salvation; you cannot earn righteousness. Salvation is the gift of God, and righteousness is the natural fruit of the spirit-born life of sonship in the kingdom." 1683:9

"You see, then, that the Father gives salvation to the children of men, and this salvation is a free gift to all who have the faith to receive sonship in the divine family. There is nothing man can do to earn this salvation. Works of self-righteousness cannot buy the favor of God, and much praying in public will not atone for lack of living faith in the heart." 1838:14

"It is your faith that saves your souls. Salvation is the gift of God to all who believe they are his sons. But be not deceived; while salvation is the free gift of God and is bestowed upon all who accept it by faith, there follows the experience of bearing the fruits of this spirit life as it is lived in the flesh." 2053:42

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 317:24 to 30 (The estimate...survival character.)
- 380:10 to 382:5 (6. THE SPIRIT IN MAN)
- 756:37 to 757:6 (Throughout the...of Van.)
- 1017:18 to 35 (The ceremonies...for righteousness.)
- 1453:12 to 13 (If there...with me.)
- 1537:20 to 23 ("John came...of God.")
- 1568:35 to 38 ("The power...of God.")
- 1622:36 to 1623:3 (Our Father...be done.)
- 1838:10 to 28 (On the...be exalted.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

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STEP 4

ADMITTING OUR SHORTCOMINGS

We acknowledged and sincerely repented our misdeeds. We confessed these wrongs to God and confided in a trusted friend.

REFERENCES:

Sin must be redefined as deliberate disloyalty to Deity. There are degrees of disloyalty: the partial loyalty of indecision; the divided loyalty of confliction; the dying loyalty of indifference; and the death of loyalty exhibited in devotion to godless ideals. 984:29

The confession of sin is a manful repudiation of disloyalty, but it in no wise mitigates the time-space consequences of such disloyalty. But confession — sincere recognition of the nature of sin — is essential to religious growth and spiritual progress. 984:44

“And have you not also read in the Scriptures where it says: ‘He looks down upon men, and if any will say: I have sinned and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not, then will God deliver that man’s soul from darkness, and he shall see the light?’” 1440:25

“Make an end of your misery by loathing sin. When you look up to the Noble One, turn away from sin with a whole heart. Make no apology for evil; make no excuse for sin. By your efforts to make amends for past sins you acquire strength to resist future tendencies thereto. Restraint is born of repentance. Leave no fault unconfessed to the Noble One.” 1446:43

“If a man recognizes the evil of his ways and repents of sin from the heart, then may he seek forgiveness; he may escape the penalty; he may change calamity into blessing.” 1452:26

“Our Father even loves the wicked and is always kind to the ungrateful. If more human beings could only know about the goodness of God, they would certainly be led to repent of their evil ways and forsake all known sin.” 1454:7

And all such true faith is predicated on profound reflection, sincere self-criticism, and uncompromising moral consciousness. 1459:32

The three apostles were shocked this afternoon when they realized that their Master’s religion made no provision for spiritual self-examination. . . . But Jesus said nothing which would proscribe self-analysis as a prevention of conceited egotism. 1583:5

“Many times, when you have done evil, you have thought to charge up your acts to the influence of the evil one when in reality you have but been led astray by your own natural tendencies. Did not the Prophet Jeremiah long ago tell you that the human heart is deceitful above all things and sometimes even desperately wicked? How easy for you to become self-deceived and thereby fall into foolish fears, diverse lusts, enslaving pleasures, malice, envy, and even vengeful hatred!” 1609:42

"When men believe this gospel, which is a revelation of the goodness of God, they will be led to voluntary repentance of all known sin. Realization of sonship is incompatible with the desire to sin. Kingdom believers hunger for righteousness and thirst for divine perfection." 1683:14

Devotion, to the Pharisee, was a means of inducing self-righteous inactivity and the assurance of false spiritual security; devotion, to the publican, was a means of stirring up his soul to the realization of the need for repentance, confession, and the acceptance, by faith, of merciful forgiveness. 1838:36

Having taken the first step along the path of compromise and least resistance, there was nothing apparent to Peter but to go on with the course of conduct decided upon. It requires a great and noble character, having started out wrong, to turn about and go right. All too often one's own mind tends to justify continuance in the path of error when once it is entered upon. 1981:44

As we look back upon this tragedy, we conceive that Judas went wrong, primarily, because he was very markedly an isolated personality, a personality shut in and away from ordinary social contacts. He persistently refused to confide in, or freely fraternize with, his fellow apostles. 2055:43

Judas persistently refused to confide in his brethren. When he was impelled, by the accumulation of his emotional conflicts, to seek relief in self-expression, he invariably sought the advice and received the unwise consolation of his unspiritual relatives or those chance acquaintances who were either indifferent, or actually hostile, to the welfare and progress of the spiritual realities of the heavenly kingdom, of which he was one of the twelve consecrated ambassadors on earth. 2056:17

He disliked to discuss his personal problems with his immediate associates; he refused to talk over his difficulties with his real friends and those who truly loved him. In all the years of their association he never once went to the Master with a purely personal problem. 2056:39

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 41:1 (The "richness...to repentance.")
- 52:7 to 10 (Free and...immoral judgment.)
- 142:1 to 7 (Mortal man...personality identity.)
- 555:5 to 12 (Law is...constitute falseness.)
- 603:1 to 16 (It is...and disdain.)
- 754:32 to 755:9 (There are...his sins.)
- 760:42 to 761:40 (7. REMOTE REPERCUSSIONS OF SIN)
- 842:30 to 48 (Eve had...divine plan.)
- 849:5 to 16 (Cain's life...of Adam.)
- 1005:15 to 22 (Religion has...of circumstances.)
- 1060:41 to 45 (Thus from...the light?)
- 1300:28 to 1301:29 (7. OMNISCIENCE AND PREDESTINATION)
- 1428:3 to 1429:25 (1. AT JOPPA - DISCOURSE ON JONAH)
- 1435:21 to 33 (Error (evil)...and Ultimate.)
- 1447:11 to 22 ("No religionist...his deeds.)
- 1475:33 to 39 (To the...and intelligently?)
- 1566:30 to 32 (He must...is death?)
- 1583:5 to 12 (The three...conceited egotism.)
- 1659:45 to 1661:18 (4. EVIL, SIN, AND INIQUITY)
- 1714:7 to 40 (When the...mouths speak?)
- 1736:30 to 33 (Said Jesus:...of offense?)
- 1750:44 to 1751:10 (That evening...with me?)
- 1762:19 to 32 (One evening...of repentance.)
- 1766:23 to 30 (In preaching...in heaven.)
- 1998:14 to 50 (Judas was...rocks below.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 5
FORGIVING
OTHERS

With God's help, we
forgave each person who
had ever wronged us.

REFERENCES:

"I say to you: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. And whatsoever you believe that I would do to men, do you also to them.

"Your Father in heaven makes the sun to shine on the evil as well as upon the good; likewise he sends rain on the just and the unjust. You are the sons of God; even more, you are now the ambassadors of my Father's kingdom. Be merciful, even as God is merciful, and in the eternal future of the kingdom you shall be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect.

"You are commissioned to save men, not to judge them. At the end of your earth life you will all expect mercy; therefore do I require of you during your mortal life that you show mercy to all of your brethren in the flesh." 1571:10

By showing mercy, he meant to portray spiritual deliverance from all grudges, grievances, anger, and the lust for selfish power and revenge. And when he said, "Resist not evil," he later explained that he did not mean to condone sin or to counsel fraternity with iniquity. He intended the more to teach forgiveness, to "resist not evil treatment of one's personality, evil injury to one's feelings of personal dignity." 1590:18

And forgive us every one our debts

As we also have forgiven our debtors. 1620:7

Even the forgiveness of sin operates in this same unerring fashion. The Father in heaven has forgiven you even before you have thought to ask him, but such forgiveness is not available in your personal religious experience until such a time as you forgive your fellow men. 1638:34

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" And Jesus answered Peter: "Not only seven times but even to seventy times and seven. Therefore may the kingdom of heaven be likened to a certain king who ordered a financial reckoning with his stewards. And when they had begun to conduct this examination of accounts, one of his chief retainers was brought before him confessing that he owed his king ten thousand talents. Now this officer of the king's court pleaded that hard times had come upon him, and that he did not have wherewith to pay this obligation. And so the king commanded that his property be confiscated, and that his children be sold to pay his debt. When this chief steward heard this stern decree, he fell down on his face before the king and implored him to have mercy and grant him more time, saying, 'Lord, have a little more patience with me, and I will pay you all! And when the king looked upon this negligent servant and his family, he was moved with compassion. He ordered that he should be released, and that the loan should be wholly forgiven.

"And this chief steward, having thus received mercy and forgiveness at the hands of the king, went about his business, and finding one of his subordinate stewards who owed him a mere hundred denarii, he laid hold upon him and, taking him by the throat, said, 'Pay me all you owe! And then did this fellow steward fall down before the chief steward and, beseeching him, said: 'Only have patience with me, and I will presently be able to pay you.' But the chief steward would not show mercy to his fellow steward but rather had him cast in prison until he should pay his debt. When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were so distressed that they went and told their lord and master, the king. When the king heard of the doings of his chief steward, he called this ungrateful and unforgiving man before him and said: 'You are a wicked and unworthy steward. When you sought for compassion, I freely forgave you your entire debt. Why did you not also show mercy to your fellow steward, even as I showed mercy to you?' And the king was so very angry that he delivered his ungrateful chief steward to the jailers that they might hold him until he had paid all that was due. And even so shall my heavenly Father show the more abundant mercy to those who freely show mercy to their fellows. How can you come to God asking consideration for your shortcomings when you are wont to chastise your brethren for being guilty of these same human frailties? I say to all of you: Freely you have received the good things of the kingdom; therefore freely give to your fellows on earth." 1763:21

Jesus taught that sin is not the child of a defective nature but rather the offspring of a knowing mind dominated by an unsubmissive will. Regarding sin, he taught that God *has* forgiven; that we make such forgiveness personally available by the act of forgiving our fellows. When you forgive your brother in the flesh, you thereby create the capacity in your own soul for the reception of the reality of God's forgiveness of your own misdeeds. 1861:14

"When a wise man understands the inner impulses of his fellows, he will love them. And when you love your brother, you have already forgiven him. This capacity to understand man's nature and forgive his apparent wrongdoing is Godlike.

"Your inability or unwillingness to forgive your fellows is the measure of your immaturity, your failure to attain adult sympathy, understanding, and love. You hold grudges and nurse vengefulness in direct proportion of your ignorance of the inner nature and true longings of your children and your fellow beings. Love is the outworking of the divine and inner urge of life." 1898:33

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 1449:1 to 3 (We crave...done us.)
- 1590:17 to 23 (Jesus portrayed...personal dignity?)
- 1639:8 to 10 (5. They who...be judged.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 6
ASKING
OTHERS' FORGIVENESS

Without consideration of the emotional or financial cost involved, we asked forgiveness of those we had wronged, and did our best to make full amends to each of them, except where to have done so might have further injured them.

REFERENCES:

Man even qualifies himself for the restraining garments of mercy when he dares to love his fellow men, while he achieves the beginnings of spiritual brotherhood when he elects to mete out to them that treatment which he himself would be accorded, even that treatment which he conceives that God would accord them. 1302:47

"When you find yourself in the wrong, do not hesitate to confess your error and be quick to make amends." 1453:18

"No mortal who knows God and seeks to do the divine will can stoop to engage in the oppressions of wealth... All such wealth should be restored to those who have thus been robbed or to their children and their children's children." 1464:13

"If any portion of your fortune has been knowingly derived from fraud; if aught of your wealth has been accumulated by dishonest practices or unfair methods; if your riches are the product of unjust dealings with your fellows, make haste to restore all these ill-gotten gains to the rightful owners. Make full amends and thus cleanse your fortune of all dishonest riches." 1465:1

"And whatever it shall cost you in the things of the world, no matter what price you may pay to enter the kingdom of heaven, you shall receive manifold more of joy and spiritual progress in this world, and in the age to come eternal life." 1537:6

Then Zaccheus stood upon a stool and said: "Men of Jericho, hear me! I may be a publican and a sinner, but the great Teacher has come to abide in my house; and before he goes in, I tell you that I am going to bestow one half of all my goods upon the poor, and beginning tomorrow, if I have wrongfully exacted aught from any man, I will restore fourfold. I am going to seek salvation with all my heart and learn to do righteousness in the sight of God." 1874:13

The golden rule, when divested of the superhuman insight of the Spirit of Truth, becomes nothing more than a rule of high ethical conduct. The golden rule, when literally interpreted, may become the instrument of great offense to one's fellows. Without a spiritual discernment of the golden rule of wisdom you might reason that, since you are desirous that all men speak the full and frank truth of their minds to you, you should therefore fully and frankly speak the full thought of your mind to your fellow beings. Such an unspiritual interpretation of the golden rule might result in untold unhappiness and no end of sorrow. 1949:43

STEP 7

ACCEPTING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Having forgiven all others,
holding back nothing, we
accepted the fullness of
God's forgiveness and his spiritual
eradication of all our misdeeds
and shortcomings.

REFERENCES:

God is divinely kind to sinners. When rebels return to righteousness, they are mercifully received, "for our God will abundantly pardon." "I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." 39:15

The forgiveness of sin by Deity is the renewal of loyalty relations following a period of the human consciousness of the lapse of such relations as the consequence of conscious rebellion. The forgiveness does not have to be sought, only received as the consciousness of reestablishment of loyalty relations between the creature and the Creator. 985:1

"Every one who is called by my name I have created for my glory, and they shall show forth my praise. I, even I, am he who blots out their transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember their sins." 1069:41

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." 1445:37

"Let the wicked forsake his evil way and the unrighteous man his rebellious thoughts. Says the Lord: 'Let them return to me, and I will have mercy on them; I will abundantly pardon.'" 1446:2

"And this is the sum of duty: Let no man do to another what would be repugnant to himself; cherish no malice, smite not him who smites you, conquer anger with mercy, and vanquish hate by benevolence. And all this we should do because God is a kind friend and a gracious father who remits all our earthly offenses." 1449:14

"This religion of the Wise One cleanses the believer from every evil thought and sinful deed. I bow before the God of heaven in repentance if I have offended in thought, word, or act—intentionally or unintentionally—and I offer prayers for mercy and praise for forgiveness. I know when I make confession, if I purpose not to do again the evil thing, that sin will be removed from my soul. I know that forgiveness takes away the bonds of sin." 1450:31

"When men and women ask what shall we do to be saved, you shall answer, Believe this gospel of the kingdom; accept divine forgiveness." 1682:31

"I admonish you to fear none, in heaven or on earth, but to rejoice in the knowledge of him who has power to deliver you from all unrighteousness and to present you blameless before the judgment seat of a universe." 1820:15

"Divine forgiveness is inevitable; it is inherent and inalienable in God's infinite understanding, in his perfect knowledge of all that concerns the mistaken judgment and erroneous choosing of the child." 1898:28

The cross forever shows that the attitude of Jesus toward sinners was neither condemnation nor condonation, but rather eternal and loving salvation. Jesus is truly a savior in the sense that his life and death do win men over to goodness and righteous survival. Jesus loves men so much that his love awakens the response of love in the human heart. Love is truly contagious and eternally creative. Jesus' death on the cross exemplifies a love which is sufficiently strong and divine to forgive sin and swallow up all evil-doing. Jesus disclosed to this world a higher quality of righteousness than justice—mere technical right and wrong. Divine love does not merely forgive wrongs; it absorbs and actually destroys them. The forgiveness of love utterly transcends the forgiveness of mercy. Mercy sets the guilt of evil-doing to one side; but love destroys forever the sin and all weakness resulting therefrom. Jesus brought a new method of living to Urantia. He taught us not to resist evil but to find through him a goodness which effectually destroys evil. The forgiveness of Jesus is not condonation; it is salvation from condemnation. Salvation does not slight wrongs; it makes them right. True love does not compromise nor condone hate; it destroys it. The love of Jesus is never satisfied with mere forgiveness. The Master's love implies rehabilitation, eternal survival. It is altogether proper to speak of salvation as redemption if you mean this eternal rehabilitation.

Jesus, by the power of his personal love for men, could break the hold of sin and evil. He thereby set men free to choose better ways of living. Jesus portrayed a deliverance from the past which in itself promised a triumph for the future. Forgiveness thus provided salvation. The beauty of divine love, once fully admitted to the human heart, forever destroys the charm of sin and the power of evil. 2013:6

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 38:6 to 20 (Mercy is...love him.)
- 41:30 to 47 (God is...spiritual universe.)
- 1069:10 to 43 (And it...their sins.)
- 1475:40 to 1476:4 (To the...heavenly courts.)
- 1541:9 to 14 (And to...but sinners.)
- 1545:17 to 19 (Jesus taught...eternal love.)
- 1560:14 to 18 (The presence...one away.)
- 1651:29 to 1652:36 (Though Simon...saved you.)
- 1750:10 to 13 ("And mark...are lost.")
- 1792:39 to 1793:38 (3. THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTRY)
- 1850:26 to 1853:19 (1. PARABLE OF THE LOST SON)
- 1861:45 to 1862:10 (It is...such love.)
- 1898:3 to 48 (1. DIVINE FORGIVENESS)

STEP 8

LIVING
NEW LIVES

We resolved to live new lives, and to abandon anger, anxiety, impatience, pride and fear. We refused to cling to or nurture these relics of our pasts, and have asked God to remove them. We are promptly admitting our wrongs and refusing to harbor feelings of guilt.

REFERENCES:

You must surrender every wish of mind and every craving of soul to the transforming embrace of spiritual growth. 1002:30

Of all the dangers which beset man's mortal nature and jeopardize his spiritual integrity, pride is the greatest.

Pride is deceitful, intoxicating, and sin-breeding whether found in an individual, a group, a race, or a nation. It is literally true, "Pride goes before a fall." 1223:1

Jesus fully understood how difficult it is for men to break with their past. He knew how human beings are swayed by the preacher's eloquence, and how the conscience responds to emotional appeal as the mind does to logic and reason, but he also knew how far more difficult it is to persuade men to *disown the past*. 1722:38

The theme of Jesus' instructions during the sojourn at Sidon was spiritual progression. He told them they could not stand still; they must go forward in righteousness or retrogress into evil and sin. He admonished them to "forget those things which are in the past while you push forward to embrace the greater realities of the kingdom."

Said Jesus: "My disciples must not only cease to do evil but learn to do well; you must not only be cleansed from all conscious sin, but you must refuse to harbor even the feelings of guilt. If you confess your sins, they are forgiven; therefore must you maintain a conscience void of offense." 1736:22

"But whosoever causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea. If the things you do with your hands, or the things you see with your eyes give offense in the progress of the kingdom, sacrifice these cherished idols, for it is better to enter the kingdom minus many of the beloved things of life rather than to cling to these idols and find yourself shut out of the kingdom." 1761:21

I see in the teachings of Jesus, religion at its best. This gospel enables us to seek for the true God and to find him. But are we willing to pay the price of this entrance into the kingdom of heaven? Are we willing to be born again? to be remade? Are we willing to be subject to this terrible and testing process of self-destruction and soul reconstruction? Has not the Master said: "Whoso would save his life must lose it. Think not that I have come to bring peace but rather a soul struggle"? True, after we pay the price of dedication to the Father's will, we do experience great peace provided we continue to walk in these spiritual paths of consecrated living.

Now are we truly forsaking the lures of the known order of existence while we unreservedly dedicate our quest to the lures of the unknown and unexplored order of the existence of a future life of adventure in the spirit worlds of the higher idealism of divine reality. 1782:5

And Jesus replied: "If you would be ordained, you must be willing to forsake all. The gospel messengers cannot have divided affections. No man, having put his hand to the plough, if he turns back, is worthy to become a messenger of the kingdom." 1801:42

Almost every human being has some one thing which is held on to as a pet evil, and which the entrance into the kingdom of heaven requires as a part of the price of admission. 1802:34

"But the Father requires that the affections of his children be pure and undivided. Whatever thing or person comes between you and the love of the truths of the kingdom, must be surrendered." 1803:47

"Now, then, must each of you sit down and count the cost of being my disciple. From now on you will not be able to follow after us, listening to the teaching and beholding the works; you will be required to face bitter persecutions and to bear witness for this gospel in the face of crushing disappointment. If you are unwilling to renounce all that you are and to dedicate all that you have, then are you unworthy to be my disciple." 1870:7

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 603:1 to 10 (There must... willful sin.)
- 752:28 to 36 (It should... evolving selfishness.)
- 1655:23 to 1656:9 (7. BACK IN CAPERNAUM)
- 1803:24 to 1804:39 (3. THE DISCUSSION ABOUT WEALTH)
- 1821:3 to 1823:2 (4. DIVIDING THE INHERITANCE)
- 1981:34 to 48 (Until the... entered upon.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 9

COMMITTING OURSELVES

We counted the cost and determined that the only life worth living is one based on truth and dedicated to our loving heavenly Father. We wholeheartedly committed every aspect of our lives to God and to doing his will.

REFERENCES:

Even to approach the knowing of a divine personality, all of man's personality endowments must be wholly consecrated to the effort; half-hearted, partial devotion will be unavailing. 30:24

To isolate part of life and call it religion is to disintegrate life and to distort religion. And this is just why the God of worship claims all allegiance or none. 1124:26

The secret of survival is wrapped up in the supreme human desire to be Godlike and in the associated willingness to do and be any and all things which are essential to the final attainment of that over-mastering desire. 1206:3

When man consecrates his will to the doing of the Father's will, when man gives God all that he has, then does God make that man more than he is. 1285:31

That which the lad wanted most to do he was unconsciously actually doing. And it was, and is, ever thus. That which the enlightened and reflective human imagination of spiritual teaching and leading wholeheartedly and unselfishly wants to do and be, becomes measurably creative in accordance with the degree of mortal dedication to the divine doing of the Father's will. When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen. 1467:33

"Those who first seek to enter the kingdom, thus beginning to strive for a nobility of character like that of my Father, shall presently possess all else that is needful. But I say to you in all sincerity: Unless you seek entrance into the kingdom with the faith and trusting dependence of a little child, you shall in no wise gain admission." 1536:24

"The heathen strike directly for their objectives; you are guilty of too much chronic yearning. If you desire to enter the kingdom, why do you not take it by spiritual assault even as the heathen take a city they lay siege to?" 1725:40

"Unless you are born again, born of the spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of God." Nevertheless, to all who are honest of heart and sincere in faith, it remains eternally true: "Behold, I stand at the doors of men's hearts and knock, and if any man will open to me, I will come in and sup with him and will feed him with the bread of life; we shall be one in spirit and purpose, and so shall we ever be brethren in the long and fruitful service of the search for the Paradise Father." 1829:36

Jesus taught that, by faith, the believer enters the kingdom *note.* In the various discourses he taught that two things are essential to faith-entrance into the kingdom:

1. *Faith, sincerity.* To come as a little child, to receive the bestowal of sonship as a gift; to submit to the doing of the Father's will without questioning and in the full confidence and genuine trustfulness of the Father's wisdom; to come into the kingdom free from prejudice and preconception; to be open-minded and teachable like an unspoiled child.

2. *Truth hunger.* The thirst for righteousness, a change of mind, the acquirement of the motive to be like God and to find God. 1861:4

"You who would follow after me from this time on, must be willing to pay the price of wholehearted dedication to the doing of my Father's will. If you would be my disciples, you must be willing to forsake father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters. If any one of you would now be my disciple, you must be willing to give up even your life just as the Son of Man is about to offer up his life for the completion of the mission of doing the Father's will on earth and in the flesh.

"If you are not willing to pay the full price, you can hardly be my disciple. Before you go further, you should each sit down and count the cost of being my disciple." 1869:34

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 21:26 to 22:5 (God-knowing...spiritual progress.)
- 22:32 to 44 (The Universal...Creator Father.)
- 31:10 to 14 (Man does...between personalities.)
- 46:19 to 35 (While the...finite universes.)
- 64:27 to 31 (The mind...divine will.)
- 69:40 to 48 (Eternal survival...believing individuals.)
- 71:13 to 24 (Having thus...is absolute.)
- 150:18 to 40 (Physical authority...the realms.)
- 447:34 to 39 (As to...the world.)
- 447:40 to 448:35 (6. THE FAITH SONS OF GOD)
- 448:36 to 449:28 (7. FATHER-FUSED MORTALS)
- 605:13 to 17 (Gabriel was...sophistry-proof.)
- 1002:23 to 41 (9. CONDITIONS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER)
- 1095:33 to 39 (Spiritual development...in heaven.)
- 1114:31 to 1115:8 (8. FAITH AND BELIEF)
- 1124:20 to 28 (The philosophic...or none.)
- 1188:5 to 11 (Declaration of...Thought Adjusters.)
- 1200:39 to 43 (This Adjuster...divine attainment.)
- 1205:35 to 1206:46 (3. CO-OPERATION WITH THE ADJUSTER)
- 1210:1 to 6 (Every decision...such reactions.)
- 1216:12 to 1217:37 (1. THE MIND ARENA OF CHOICE)
- 1221:8 to 41 (5. THE CONSECRATION OF CHOICE)
- 1229:23 to 34 (The material...human creature.)
- 1232:24 to 1233:37 (That which...real purpose.)
- 1237:39 to 45 (When fusion...eternal career.)
- 1242:6 to 8 (Also, when...that soul.)

1285:16 to 34 (And so... he is.)
 1285:41 to 1286:2 (The intellectual... of supremacy.)
 1287:24 to 32 (What man... brotherly service.)
 1295:6 to 16 (The personality... paradise Father.)
 1300:4 to 23 (Volition on... also superabsonite.)
 1431:38 to 45 (The next... divine service.)
 1437:3 to 1438:38 (6. THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS AFRAID)
 1467:29 to 39 (What a... do happen.)
 1536:8 to 1537:23 ("I have... of God.")
 1545:35 to 45 (Jesus made... saving grace.)
 1569:11 to 17 ("Your message... within you.)
 1576:12 to 25 (When he... in heaven.)
 1584:23 to 38 (That evening... of earth.)
 1585:9 to 23 (This same... child-father relationship.)
 1585:47 to 1586:4 (John asked... of salvation.)
 1588:23 to 1589:11 (2. GOD'S LAW AND THE FATHER'S WILL)
 1601:44 to 1603:8 (6. THE VISIT WITH NICODEMUS)
 1630:34 to 38 (Then the... like him.)
 1652:32 to 49 (When Simon... of Gethsemane.)
 1660:39 to 1661:13 ("Men are... the kingdom.")
 1682:18 to 20 (But, when... the kingdom?)
 1682:24 to 1683:18 (5. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?)
 1694:6 to 11 ("The kingdom... extraordinary pearl.")
 1725:35 to 1726:8 (Jesus continued... the kingdom.)
 1728:29 to 1730:41 (5. THE DISCOURSE ON TRUE RELIGION)
 1730:42 to 1733:41 (6. THE SECOND DISCOURSE ON RELIGION)
 1820:38 to 45 (How long... of life?)
 1828:26 to 1829:50 (3. THE SERMON AT GERASA)
 1839:40 to 1840:7 (That evening... their mothers.)
 1869:28 to 1870:30 (2. ON COUNTING THE COST)
 1905:27 to 33 ("In every... and error.)
 2008:45 to 2009:40 (One of... believing brigand.)
 2017:20 to 26 (All this... mortal men.)
 2054:16 to 21 ("Peace be... for God.)
 2065:23 to 28 (Before Pentecost... unreserved consecration.)
 2083:8 to 25 (Primitive man... of Nazareth.)
 2093:4 to 15 (You would... Father's will.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 10

PRAYING

Through faith, prayer, meditation, worship and spiritual communion, we are improving our conscious contact with God, and are sharing our inner lives with him.

REFERENCES:

If you would engage in effective praying, you should bear in mind the laws of prevailing petitions:

1. You must qualify as a potent prayer by sincerely and courageously facing the problems of universe reality. You must possess cosmic stamina.
2. You must have honestly exhausted the human capacity for human adjustment. You must have been industrious.
3. You must surrender every wish of mind and every craving of soul to the transforming embrace of spiritual growth. You must have experienced an enhancement of meanings and an elevation of values.
4. You must make a wholehearted choice of the divine will. You must obliterate the dead center of indecision.
5. You not only recognize the Father's will and choose to do it, but you have effected an unqualified consecration, and a dynamic dedication, to the actual doing of the Father's will.
6. Your prayer will be directed exclusively for divine wisdom to solve the specific human problems encountered in the Paradise ascension — the attainment of divine perfection.
7. And you must have faith — living faith. 1002:24

The doing of the will of God is nothing more or less than an exhibition of creature willingness to share the inner life with God — with the very God who has made such a creature life of inner meaning-value possible. Sharing is Godlike — divine. 1221:9

Worship is the act of a part identifying itself with the Whole; the finite with the Infinite; the son with the Father; time in the act of striking step with eternity. Worship is the act of the son's personal communion with the divine Father, the assumption of refreshing, creative, fraternal, and romantic attitudes by the human soul-spirit. 1616:37

"But when you pray, you exercise so little faith. Genuine faith will remove mountains of material difficulty which may chance to lie in the path of soul expansion and spiritual progress." 1619:36

Jesus taught that effective prayer must be:

1. Unselfish — not alone for oneself.
2. Believing — according to faith.
3. Sincere — honest of heart.
4. Intelligent — according to light.
5. Trustful — in submission to the Father's all-wise will. 1620:32

When you have become wholly dedicated to the doing of the will of the Father in heaven, the answer to all your petitions will be forthcoming because your prayers will be in full accordance with the Father's will, and the Father's will is ever manifest throughout his vast universe. What the true son desires and the infinite Father wills IS. Such a prayer cannot remain unanswered, and no other sort of petition can possibly be fully answered. 1639:18

"I have come forth from the Father; if, therefore, you are ever in doubt as to what you would ask of the Father, ask in my name, and I will present your petition in accordance with your real needs and desires and in accordance with my Father's will." 1639:39

Even the apostles were unable fully to comprehend his teaching as to the necessity for using spiritual force for the purpose of breaking through all material resistance and for surmounting every earthly obstacle which might chance to stand in the way of grasping the all-important spiritual values of the new life in the spirit as the liberated sons of God. 1829:46

When a prayer is apparently unanswered, the delay often betokens a better answer, although one which is for some good reason greatly delayed.... No sincere prayer is denied an answer except when the superior viewpoint of the spiritual world has devised a better answer, an answer which meets the petition of the spirit of man as contrasted with the prayer of the mere mind of man. 1848:22

How long will it take the world of believers to understand that prayer is not a process of getting your way but rather a program of taking God's way, an experience of learning how to recognize and execute the Father's will? It is entirely true that, when your will has been truly aligned with his, you can ask anything conceived by that will-union, and it will be granted. And such a will-union is effected by and through Jesus even as the life of the vine flows into and through the living branches. 1946:12

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 65:17 to 66:38 (3. TRUE WORSHIP)
- 84:21 to 85:2 (The spirit-gravity...are valueless.)
- 303:36 to 305:25 (7. CONDUCTORS OF WORSHIP)
- 994:1 to 1002:41 (PAPER 91: THE EVOLUTION OF PRAYER)
- 1123:32 to 36 (Prayer is...illuminates destiny.)
- 1300:4 to 11 (Volition on...to pass.)
- 1475:25 to 32 (To the...god-knowing mortals.)
- 1598:16 to 20 (1. Yahweh...divine nature.)
- 1598:42 to 1599:5 (6. *The Father...* in heaven.)
- 1616:12 to 43 (7. TEACHINGS ABOUT PRAYER AND WORSHIP)
- 1618:35 to 1619:38 (2. THE DISCOURSE ON PRAYER)
- 1619:39 to 1620:41 (3. THE BELIEVER'S PRAYER)

- 1620:42 to 1621:40 (4. MORE ABOUT PRAYER)
- 1621:41 to 1624:16 (5. OTHER FORMS OF PRAYER)
- 1638:1 to 1641:11 (2. AT JOTAPATA)
- 1669:46 to 1670:3 (It is...personal faith.)
- 1698:32 to 1699:6 (When Jesus...the cure.)
- 1704:32 to 38 (Jesus then...in heaven.)
- 1734:16 to 1735:35 (1. THE SYRIAN WOMAN)
- 1739:43 to 48 (Kingdom believers...worshipful communion.)
- 1751:24 to 31 (Being from...of revenge.)
- 1757:1 to 1758:7 (5. JESUS HEALS THE BOY)
- 1758:42 to 1759:4 ("How long...material manifestations?")
- 1774:18 to 37 (I am...understand it.)
- 1777:19 to 48 (The effort...spiritual energies.)
- 1840:17 to 38 (It was...daily domiciled.)
- 1848:1 to 1849:23 (4. THE ANSWER TO PRAYER)
- 1952:26 to 28 (Hitherto have...hear you.)
- 2065:47 to 2066:5 (Prayer did...true worship.)
- 2077:15 to 16 (One of...religious devotion.)
- 2087:3 to 2090:7 (Jesus enjoyed...he believed.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 11

BALANCING
PHYSICAL WITH SPIRITUAL

We passed through conflict as God gradually empowered us to become more willing to exchange material for spiritual goals. We are better balancing our human needs with our lives in the spirit.

REFERENCES:

Those God-knowing men and women who have been born of the Spirit experience no more conflict with their mortal natures than do the inhabitants of the most normal of worlds, planets which have never been tainted with sin nor touched by rebellion. Faith sons work on intellectual levels and live on spiritual planes far above the conflicts produced by unrestrained or unnatural physical desires. The normal urges of animal beings and the natural appetites and impulses of the physical nature are not in conflict with even the highest spiritual attainment except in the minds of ignorant, mistaught, or unfortunately overconscientious persons.

Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received your orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, "This is the way." 383:3

The great problem of life is the adjustment of the ancestral tendencies of living to the demands of the spiritual urges initiated by the divine presence of the Mystery Monitor. While in the universe and super-universe careers no man can serve two masters, in the life you now live on Urantia every man must perforce serve two masters. He must become adept in the art of a continuous human temporal compromise while he yields spiritual allegiance to but one master; and this is why so many falter and fail, grow weary and succumb to the stress of the evolutionary struggle. 1199:31

The human mind does not well stand the conflict of double allegiance. It is a severe strain on the soul to undergo the experience of an effort to serve both good and evil. The supremely happy and efficiently unified mind is the one wholly dedicated to the doing of the will of the Father in heaven. Unresolved conflicts destroy unity and may terminate in mind disruption. But the survival character of a soul is not fostered by attempting to secure peace of mind at any price, by the surrender of noble aspirations, and by the compromise of spiritual ideals; rather is such peace attained by the stalwart assertion of the triumph of that which is true, and this victory is achieved in the overcoming of evil with the potent force of good. 1480:22

"While you will experience great joy in the service of my Father, you should also be prepared for trouble, for I warn you that it will be only through much tribulation that many will enter the kingdom. But those who have found the kingdom, their joy will be full, and they shall be called the blest of all the earth." 1533:29

It requires time for men and women to effect radical and extensive changes in their basic and fundamental concepts of social conduct, philosophic attitudes, and religious convictions. 1705:9

"You know that men are all too often led into temptation by the urge of their own selfishness and by the impulses of their animal natures. When you are in this way tempted, I admonish you that, while you recognize temptation honestly and sincerely for just what it is, you intelligently redirect the energies of spirit, mind, and body which are seeking expression, into higher channels and toward more idealistic goals. In this way may you transform your temptations into the highest types of uplifting mortal ministry while you almost wholly avoid these wasteful and weakening conflicts between the animal and spiritual natures." 1738:40

Forewarn all believers regarding the fringe of conflict which must be traversed by all who pass the life as it is lived in the flesh to the higher life as it is lived in the spirit. To those who live quite wholly within either realm, there is little conflict or confusion, but all are doomed to experience more or less uncertainty during the times of transition between the two levels of living. In entering the kingdom, you cannot escape its responsibilities or avoid its obligations, but remember: The gospel yoke is easy and the burden of truth is light. 1766:8

Teach all believers that those who enter the kingdom are not thereby rendered immune to the accidents of time or to the ordinary catastrophes of nature. Believing the gospel will not prevent getting into trouble, but it will insure that you shall be *unafraid* when trouble does overtake you. If you dare to believe in me and wholeheartedly proceed to follow after me, you shall most certainly by so doing enter upon the sure pathway to trouble. I do not promise to deliver you from the waters of adversity, but I do promise to go with you through all of them. 1767:1

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 556:39 to 40 (The greatest...experiencing tribulation.)
- 557:3 to 10 (16. You cannot...never come.)
- 578:14 to 19 (Because of...survival values.)
- 911:23 to 33 (Man should...to another.)
- 1086:31 to 38 (Urantia society...to another.)
- 1199:9 to 47 (5. MATERIAL HANDICAPS TO ADJUSTER INDWELLING)
- 1207:1 to 42 (4. THE ADJUSTER'S WORK IN THE MIND)
- 1207:43 to 1209:8 (5. ERRONEOUS CONCEPTS OF ADJUSTER GUIDANCE)
- 1209:29 to 40 (When the...the first.)
- 1213:5 to 1214:10 (But with...of Days.)
- 1220:33 to 1221:3 (Since this...the personality.)
- 1478:24 to 41 ("The soul...intellectual self-consciousness.")
- 1525:39 to 41 (In the...in heaven.")
- 1610:28 to 1611:48 (3. DIVERSION AND RELAXATION)

1674:17 to 1675:3 (5. LESSON REGARDING CONTENTMENT)
1715:25 to 1716:4 (It was...just ahead.)
1737:42 to 1741:3 (5. JESUS' TEACHING AT TYRE)
1758:16 to 41 (And Jesus...in heaven.)
1773:22 to 1774:2 (When men...intellectual hazards.)
1927:24 to 43 (This was...just ahead.)
1968:16 to 42 (The Master...these things.)
2076:1 to 5 (Do not...thrilling discovery.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 12

PERSISTING
IN OUR SEARCH

We are persisting in our search, trusting in God's schedule for our spiritual enlightenment. We are seeking the wisdom to know and the courage to do God's will in all things.

REFERENCES:

To every spirit being and to every mortal creature in every sphere and on every world of the universe of universes, the Universal Father reveals all of his gracious and divine self that can be discerned or comprehended by such spirit beings and by such mortal creatures. 27:5

That, then, is the primary or elementary course which confronts the faith-tested and much-traveled pilgrims of space. But long before reaching Havona, these ascendant children of time have learned to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable. Long since, the battle cry of these pilgrims became: "In liaison with God, nothing — absolutely nothing — is impossible." 291:20

When it comes to the sharp and well-defined conflicts between the higher and lower tendencies of the races, between what *really is* right or wrong (not merely what you may call right and wrong), you can depend upon it that the Adjuster will always participate in some definite and active manner in such experiences. The fact that such Adjuster activity may be unconscious to the human partner does not in the least detract from its value and reality. 1192:29

May I admonish you to heed the distant echo of the Adjuster's faithful call to your soul? The indwelling Adjuster cannot stop or even materially alter your career struggle of time; the Adjuster cannot lessen the hardships of life as you journey on through this world of toil. The divine indweller can only patiently forbear while you fight the battle of life as it is lived on your planet; but you could, if you only would — as you work and worry, as you fight and toil — permit the valiant Adjuster to fight with you and for you. You could be so comforted and inspired, so enthralled and intrigued, if you would only allow the Adjuster constantly to bring forth the pictures of the real motive, the final aim, and the eternal purpose of all this difficult, uphill struggle with the commonplace problems of your present material world. 1223:17

One day when Ganid asked Jesus why he had not devoted himself to the work of a public teacher, he said: "My son, everything must await the coming of its time. You are born into the world, but no amount of anxiety and no manifestation of impatience will help you to grow up. You must, in all such matters, wait upon time. Time alone will ripen the green fruit upon the tree. Season follows season and sundown follows sunrise only with the passing of time. I am now on the way to Rome with you and your father, and that is sufficient for today. My tomorrow is wholly in the hands of my Father in heaven." 1436:26

The right to enter the kingdom is conditioned by faith, personal belief. The cost of remaining in the progressive ascent of the kingdom is the pearl of great price, in order to possess which a man sells all that he has. 1583:13

"Prayer is the breath of the soul and should lead you to be persistent in your attempt to ascertain the Father's will. If any one of you has a neighbor, and you go to him at midnight and say: 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine on a journey has come to see me, and I have nothing to set before him'; and if your neighbor answers, 'Trouble me not, for the door is now shut and the children and I are in bed; therefore I cannot rise and give you bread,' you will persist, explaining that your friend hungers, and that you have no food to offer him. I say to you, though your neighbor will not rise and give you bread because he is your friend, yet because of your importunity he will get up and give you as many loaves as you need. If, then, persistence will win favors even from mortal man, how much more will your persistence in the spirit win the bread of life for you from the willing hands of the Father in heaven. Again I say to you: Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For every one who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door of salvation will be opened." 1619:1

That same evening Jesus made the long-to-be-remembered address to the apostles regarding the relative value of status with God and progress in the eternal ascent to Paradise. Said Jesus: "My children, if there exists a true and living connection between the child and the Father, the child is certain to progress continuously toward the Father's ideals. True, the child may at first make slow progress, but the progress is none the less sure. The important thing is not the rapidity of your progress but rather its certainty. Your actual achievement is not so important as the fact that the *direction* of your progress is Godward. What you are becoming day by day is of infinitely more importance than what you are today. 1653:1

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 1191:19 to 1192:43 (THE ADJUSTER'S MISSION)
- 1223:9 to 1224:19 (7. THE ADJUSTER'S PROBLEM)
- 1245:17 to 21 (Seraphim function...spiritual progress.)
- 1286:42 to 1287:4 (While such...of God.)
- 1291:8 to 16 (Men do...the Supreme.)
- 1303:1 to 7 (An automatic...be done.)
- 1393:1 to 5 (Apparently all...disappointed idealists.)
- 1393:35 to 47 (This was...collective longings.)
- 1400:35 to 1401:2 (For four...is invisible.)
- 1431:11 to 20 (This was...intelligent reflection.)
- 1445:17 to 20 ("Yahweh is...my paths.)

1566:44 to 1567:12 (To Jesus, ... spiritual experience.)
1569:5 to 10 ("But for ... in heaven.)
1574:19 to 24 (3. *Happy are* ... vast universe.)
1619:1 to 38 ("Prayer is ... spiritual progress.")
1682:42 to 43 (Entrance into ... continuance therein.)
1708:18 to 31 (The Master ... spirit reactions.)
1861:37 to 44 (Jesus was ... of God.)
1916:1 to 1918:23 (3. LATER DISCUSSION AT THE CAMP)
1968:1 to 1970:7 (3. ALONE IN GETHSEMANE)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 13

GAINING
PERSPECTIVE

We are coming to appreciate the inevitabilities and compensations of life, realizing that we are part of a gigantic creation. We are being strengthened by our spiritual assurance that we have embarked on an eternal life in which we will grow progressively more like God.

REFERENCES:

The confusion and turmoil of Urantia do not signify that the Paradise Rulers lack either interest or ability to manage affairs differently. The Creators are possessed of full power to make Urantia a veritable paradise, but such an Eden would not contribute to the development of those strong, noble, and experienced characters which the Gods are so surely forging out on your world between the anvils of necessity and the hammers of anguish. Your anxieties and sorrows, your trials and disappointments, are just as much a part of the divine plan on your sphere as are the exquisite perfection and infinite adaptation of all things to their supreme purpose on the worlds of the central and perfect universe. 258:27

But inherent in this capacity for achievement is the responsibility of ethics, the necessity for recognizing that the world and the universe are filled with a multitude of differing types of beings. All of this magnificent creation, *including yourself*, was not made just for you. This is not an egocentric universe. The Gods have decreed, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and said your Master Son, "He who would be greatest among you let him be server of all." 316:35

The universe of universes, including the small world called Urantia, is not being managed merely to meet our approval nor just to suit our convenience, much less to gratify our whims and satisfy our curiosity. The wise and all-powerful beings who are responsible for universe management undoubtedly know exactly what they are about; and so it becomes Life Carriers and behooves mortal minds to enlist in patient waiting and hearty co-operation with the rule of wisdom, the reign of power, and the march of progress. 736:36

Never, in all your ascent to Paradise, will you gain anything by impatiently attempting to circumvent the established and divine plan by short cuts, personal inventions, or other devices for improving on the way of perfection, to perfection, and for eternal perfection. 846:23

You humans have begun an endless unfolding of an almost infinite panorama, a limitless expanding of never-ending, ever-widening spheres of opportunity for exhilarating service, matchless adventure, sublime uncertainty, and boundless attainment. When the clouds gather overhead, your faith should accept the fact of the presence of the indwelling Adjuster, and thus you should be able to look beyond the mists of mortal uncertainty into the clear shining of the sun of eternal righteousness on the beckoning heights of the mansion worlds of Satania. 1194:1

Patience is exercised by those mortals whose time units are short; true maturity transcends patience by a forbearance born of real understanding.

To become mature is to live more intensely in the present, at the same time escaping from the limitations of the present. The plans of maturity, founded on past experience, are coming into being in the present in such manner as to enhance the values of the future.

The time unit of immaturity concentrates meaning-value into the present moment in such a way as to divorce the present of its true relationship to the not-present—the past-future. The time unit of maturity is proportioned so to reveal the co-ordinate relationship of past-present-future that the self begins to gain insight into the wholeness of events, begins to view the landscape of time from the panoramic perspective of broadened horizons, begins perhaps to suspect the non-beginning, nonending eternal continuum, the fragments of which are called time. 1295:38

Do not become discouraged by the discovery that you are human. Human nature may tend toward evil, but it is not inherently sinful. Be not downcast by your failure wholly to forget some of your regrettable experiences. The mistakes which you fail to forget in time will be forgotten in eternity. Lighten your burdens of soul by speedily acquiring a long-distance view of your destiny, a universe expansion of your career. 1739:22

Human beings unfailingly become discouraged when they view only the transitory transactions of time. The present, when divorced from the past and the future, becomes exasperatingly trivial. Only a glimpse of the circle of eternity can inspire man to do his best and can challenge the best in him to do its utmost. 1776:44

He taught men to place a high value upon themselves in time and in eternity. Because of this high estimate which Jesus placed upon men, he was willing to spend himself in the unremitting service of humankind. And it was this infinite worth of the finite that made the golden rule a vital factor in his religion. What mortal can fail to be uplifted by the extraordinary faith Jesus has in him? 2093:30

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 26:1 to 12 (In the... personality existence.)
- 51:18 to 52:36 (The uncertainties... pain potential.)
- 63:6 to 10 (Although the... spiritualizing self.)
- 64:39 to 65:5 (The divine... know them.)
- 115:5 to 13 (Justice is... of time.)
- 121:46 to 122:2 (But a... and space.)
- 159:45 to 160:6 (Love of... to come.)
- 183:1 to 3 (Your planet... all existence.)

263:3 to 11 (We incline...ever-heightening expectation.)
269:32 to 35 (The Graduate...perfected service.)
360:13 to 44 (3. THE EVOLUTIONARY IDEA)
435:31 to 44 (These seraphim...material reward.)
446:22 to 26 (The Gods...evolving races.)
516:4 to 27 (On the...all ascenders.)
532:40 to 45 (On the...of nativity.)
533:38 to 43 (On mansion...down here.)
578:34 to 579:14 (7. THE REWARDS OF ISOLATION)
618:44 to 619:20 (If an...of rebellion.)
624:37 to 43 (No matter...ascension experience.)
1092:40 to 46 (Political science...cosmic perspective.)
1176:4 to 1177:13 (Although the...soul evolution.)
1181: 14 to 24 (Can you...mortal man.)
1225:3 to 14 (The evolutionary...of change.)
1295:1 to 1296:17 (1. TIME AND ETERNITY)
1299:11 to 27 (In the universal brotherhood.)
1579:35 to 37 (He sought...of God.)
1603:29 to 31 (Very plainly...to Paradise.)
1676:25 to 1677:2 ("Out of...of heaven.)
1830:1 to 1831:17 (4. TEACHING ABOUT ACCIDENTS)
1953:27 to 35 ("When I...all things.)
2093:20 to 34 (Jesus led...in him?)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 14

GAINING
FAITH

We are gaining faith that God's plan for us is incomparably better than any of our own devising, and that our highest happiness and adventure consist in seeking to do his will. We are experiencing the spiritual liberty of accepting our Father's responsibility for the outcome of events we undertake in faith.

REFERENCES:

The providence of God consists in the interlocking activities of the celestial beings and the divine spirits who, in accordance with cosmic laws, unceasingly labor for the honor of God and for the spiritual advancement of his universe children. 54:29

Man is spiritually indwelt by a surviving Thought Adjuster. If such a human mind is sincerely and spiritually motivated, if such a human soul desires to know God and become like him, honestly wants to do the Father's will, there exists no negative influence of mortal deprivation nor positive power of possible interference which can prevent such a divinely motivated soul from securely ascending to the portals of Paradise. 63:31

The mortal mind can immediately think of a thousand and one things—catastrophic physical events, appalling accidents, horrific disasters, painful illnesses, and world-wide scourges—and ask whether such visitations are correlated in the unknown maneuvering of this probable functioning of the Supreme Being. Frankly, we do not know; we are not really sure. But we do observe that, as time passes, all these difficult and more or less mysterious situations *always* work out for the welfare and progress of the universes. 115:38

There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggling is not in vain. We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise, and it is the vastness of the undertaking that renders it impossible to see very much of it at any one time and during any one life. We are all a part of an eternal project which the Gods are supervising and outworking. The whole marvelous and universal mechanism moves on majestically through space to the music of the meter of the infinite thought and the eternal purpose of the First Great Source and Center.

The eternal purpose of the eternal God is a high spiritual ideal. The events of time and the struggles of material existence are but the transient scaffolding which bridges over to the other side, to the promised land of spiritual reality and supernal existence. 364:19

There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!

The goal of eternity is ahead! The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you! The race for perfection is on! whosoever will may enter, and certain victory will crown the efforts of every human being who will run the race of faith and trust, depending every step of the way on the leading of the indwelling Adjuster and on the guidance of that good spirit of the Universe Son, which so freely has been poured out upon all flesh. 365:24

While it is all too true that good cannot come of evil to the one who contemplates and performs evil, it is equally true that all things (including evil, potential and manifest) work together for good to all beings who know God, love to do his will, and are ascending Paradiseward according to his eternal plan and divine purpose. 616:37

When Thought Adjusters indwell human minds, they bring with them the model careers, the ideal lives, as determined and foreordained by themselves and the Personalized Adjusters of Divinington, which have been certified by the Personalized Adjuster of Urantia. Thus they begin work with a definite and predetermined plan for the intellectual and spiritual development of their human subjects, but it is not incumbent upon any human being to accept this plan. You are all subjects of predestination, but it is not foreordained that you must accept this divine predestination; you are at full liberty to reject any part or all of the Thought Adjusters' program. 1204:29

"The act is ours, the consequences God's." 1286:19

"Ganid, I have absolute confidence in my heavenly Father's overcare; I am consecrated to doing the will of my Father in heaven. I do not believe that *real* harm can befall me; I do not believe that my lifework can really be jeopardized by anything my enemies might wish to visit upon me, and surely we have no violence to fear from our friends. I am absolutely assured that the entire universe is friendly to me—this all-powerful truth I insist on believing with a wholehearted trust in spite of all appearances to the contrary." 1470:1

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 14:11 to 14 (Every response...future eternity.)
- 21:21 to 22:20 (The enlightened...and space.)
- 34:20 to 35 (The Father...I AM.)
- 35:32 to 36:37 (2. THE FATHER'S ETERNAL PERFECTION)
- 39:20 to 26 (After all...Universal Father.)
- 46:37 to 48 (All the...eternal circuit.)
- 47:24 to 48:23 (The Universal...Universal Father.)
- 50:38 to 51:17 (In his...things consist.)
- 52:38 to 43 (With divine...ever-circling creation.)
- 54:3 to 10 (THE Universal...the Deities.)
- 54:25 to 56:20 (1. THE UNIVERSE ATTITUDE OF THE FATHER)
- 85:3 to 86:8 (4. THE DIVINE PERFECTION PLANS)
- 137:13 to 139:24 (7. THE PART AND THE WHOLE)
- 364:18 to 365:33 (5. THE ETERNAL AND DIVINE PURPOSE)
- 552:23 to 47 (These seraphic...on high.)
- 557:34 to 558:28 (8. THE MORONTIA PROGRESSORS)
- 637:3 to 19 (GOD is...creative energy.)
- 647:26 to 43 (Every impulse...eternal attainment.)
- 739:27 to 740:16 (8. EVOLUTION IN TIME AND SPACE)
- 867:13 to 19 (The entire...and midwayer.)

1173:9 to 19 (But as... absolute Father.)
1174:39 to 1175:12 (Sooner or... Father worship.)
1204:1 to 1205:34 (Although the... of God.)
1237:19 to 1240:7 (7. ADJUSTER FUSION)
1258:38 to 1259:18 (Urantia morals... loves you.")
1260:32 to 38 (The realms... or procreators.)
1266:19 to 24 (All this... of Supremacy.)
1304:23 to 1307:20 (10. FUNCTIONS OF PROVIDENCE)
1408:11 to 12 (The Nazareth... natural flowing.)
1532:7 to 17 (The night... Father's will.)
1843:33 to 36 (When the... divine will.)
1859:30 to 1860:8 (The Master... of God.)
1937:45 to 1938:3 (For a... to execute.)
1939:9 to 12 (After a... these things.")
1966:2 to 9 (The apostles... of men.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 15
EXPERIENCING
ASSURANCE

We are better appreciating
God's ceaseless fostering
of our spiritual growth.
We are becoming more fully
assured of our Father's
unconditional love, and have begun
to experience that inner peace
which passes understanding.

REFERENCES:

Mortal man cannot possibly know the infinitude of the heavenly Father. Finite mind cannot think through such an absolute truth or fact. But this same finite human being can actually *feel*—literally experience—the full and undiminished impact of such an infinite Father's LOVE. Such a love can be truly experienced, albeit while quality of experience is unlimited, quantity of such an experience is strictly limited by the human capacity for spiritual receptivity and by the associated capacity to love the Father in return. 50:24

If mortal man is wholeheartedly spiritually motivated, unreservedly consecrated to the doing of the Father's will, then since he is so certainly and so effectively spiritually endowed by the indwelling and divine Adjuster, there cannot fail to materialize in that individual's experience the sublime consciousness of knowing God and the supernal assurance of surviving for the purpose of finding God by the progressive experience of becoming more and more like him. 63:25

And when such a life of spirit guidance is freely and intelligently accepted, there gradually develops within the human mind a positive consciousness of divine contact and assurance of spirit communion; sooner or later "the Spirit bears witness with your spirit (the Adjuster) that you are a child of God." Already has your own Thought Adjuster told you of your kinship to God so that the record testifies that the Spirit bears witness "with your spirit," not to your spirit.

The consciousness of the spirit domination of a human life is presently attended by an increasing exhibition of the characteristics of the Spirit in the life reactions of such a spirit-led mortal. "for the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance." Such spirit-guided and divinely illuminated mortals, while they yet tread the lowly paths of toil and in human faithfulness perform the duties of their earthly assignments, have already begun to discern the lights of eternal life as they glimmer on the faraway shores of another world; already have they begun to comprehend the reality of that inspiring and comforting truth, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." And throughout every trial and in the presence of every hardship, spirit-born souls are sustained by that hope which transcends all fear because the love of God is shed abroad in all hearts by the presence of the divine Spirit. 381:35

If any man chooses to do the divine will, he shall know the way of truth. 1118:31

“Concerning the kingdom and your assurance of acceptance by the heavenly Father, let me ask what father among you who is a worthy and kindhearted father would keep his son in anxiety or suspense regarding his status in the family or his place of security in the affections of his father’s heart? Do you earth fathers take pleasure in torturing your children with uncertainty about their place of abiding love in your human hearts? Neither does your Father in heaven leave his faith children of the spirit in doubtful uncertainty as to their position in the kingdom. If you receive God as your Father, then indeed and in truth are you the sons of God. And if you are sons, then are you secure in the position and standing of all that concerns eternal and divine sonship.” 1601:11

“Come, therefore, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and you shall find rest for your souls. Take upon you the divine yoke, and you will experience the peace of God, which passes all understanding.” 1627:31

And Jesus said to Thomas: “Your assurance that you have entered into the kingdom family of the Father, and that you will eternally survive with the children of the kingdom, is wholly a matter of personal experience—faith in the word of truth. Spiritual assurance is the equivalent of your personal religious experience in the eternal realities of divine truth and is otherwise equal to your intelligent understanding of truth realities plus your spiritual faith and minus your honest doubts.” 1641:42

When my children once become self-conscious of the assurance of the divine presence, such a faith will expand the mind, ennoble the soul, reinforce the personality, augment the happiness, deepen the spirit perception, and enhance the power to love and be loved. 1766:46

“If my words abide in you and you are minded to do the will of my Father, then are you truly my disciples. You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” 1796:29

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 42: 36 to 42 (Intellectual self-consciousness...*spiritual flavor.*)
- 100:30 to 101:2 (There are... perfection attainment.)
- 1118:26 to 1119:27 (1. ASSURANCES OF FAITH)
- 1288:7 to 11 (If you...are refused.)
- 1601:3 to 43 (5. THE DISCOURSE ON ASSURANCE)
- 1641:12 to 1643:5 (3. THE STOP AT RAMAH)
- 1808:5 to 14 (“You have...your souls.”)
- 1808:7 to 11 (To you...your souls.”)
- 2063:34 to 41 (Do not...of men.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 16
**DEEPENING
FELLOWSHIP**

We are sharing our spiritual lives more fully with each other. We are growing more unified in friendship and increasingly appreciate, enjoy, respect, trust and rely on each other.

REFERENCES:

These are the angels who seek to divest the associations of intelligent beings of all artificiality while endeavoring to facilitate the interassociation of will creatures on a basis of real self-understanding and genuine mutual appreciation. 432:32

Intellectually, socially, and spiritually two moral creatures do not merely double their personal potentials of universe achievement by partnership technique; they more nearly quadruple their attainment and accomplishment possibilities. 494:48

And of all forms of evil, none are more destructive of personality status than betrayal of trust and disloyalty to one's confiding friends. In committing this deliberate sin, Caligastia so completely distorted his personality that his mind has never since been able fully to regain its equilibrium. 754:28

Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists. 1094:7

Happiness and joy take origin in the inner life. You cannot experience real joy all by yourself. A solitary life is fatal to happiness. Even families and nations will enjoy life more if they share it with others. 1220:25

Personality cannot very well perform in isolation. Man is innately a social creature; he is dominated by the craving of belongingness. It is literally true, "No man lives unto himself." 1227:23

Sometimes Thomas would get permission from Andrew to go off by himself for a day or two. But he soon learned that such a course was not wise; he early found that it was best, when he was downhearted, to stick close to his work and to remain near his associates. 1562:38

Many noble human impulses die because there is no one to hear their expression. Truly, it is not good for man to be alone. Some degree of recognition and a certain amount of appreciation are essential to the development of human character. Without the genuine love of a home, no child can achieve the full development of normal character.... Of all social relations calculated to develop character, the most effective and ideal is the affectionate and understanding friendship of man and woman in the mutual embrace of intelligent wedlock. 1775:43

Every human being sooner or later acquires a certain concept of this world and a certain vision of the next. Now it is possible, through personality association, to unite these views of temporal existence and eternal prospects. Thus does the mind of one augment its spiritual values by gaining much of the insight of the other. In this way, men enrich the soul by pooling their respective spiritual possessions. Likewise, in this same way, man is enabled to avoid that ever-present tendency to fall victim to distortion of vision, prejudice of viewpoint, and narrowness of judgment. Fear, envy, and conceit can be prevented only by intimate contact with other minds. 1776:12

Isolation tends to exhaust the energy charge of the soul. Association with one's fellows is essential to the renewal of the zest for life and is indispensable to the maintenance of the courage to fight those battles consequent upon the ascent to the higher levels of human living. Friendship enhances the joys and glorifies the triumphs of life. Loving and intimate human associations tend to rob suffering of its sorrow and hardship of much of its bitterness. The presence of a friend enhances all beauty and exalts every goodness. 1776:25

Personality association and mutual affection is an efficient insurance against evil. Difficulties, sorrow, disappointment, and defeat are more painful and disheartening when borne alone. Association does not transmute evil into righteousness, but it does aid in greatly lessening the sting. Said your Master, "Happy are they who mourn" — if a friend is at hand to comfort. There is positive strength in the knowledge that you live for the welfare of others, and that these others likewise live for your welfare and advancement. Man languishes in isolation. 1776:37

OTHER SELECTIONS:

141:25 to 36 (Mathematics, material...mechanistic cosmology.)
278:17 to 26 (6. *Conciliators*...of others.)
283:26 to 28 (Mortals come...on Paradise.)
498:38 to 47 (There is...former estates.)
536:35 to 44 (It is...and God-finding.)
555:30 to 39 (Even as...too seriously.)
754:25 to 31 (In all...its equilibrium.)
763:36 to 39 (Primitive human...angry mob.)
1088:41 to 45 (The great...loyal fellowship.)
1092:9 to 16 (There is...eternal salvation.)
1420:40 to 47 (At the...for it.)
1424:15 to 24 (The Son...and immoral.)
1427:27 to 32 (On this...public ministry.)
1477:1 to 7 (Mathematics asserts...its parts.)
1533:39 to 43 (That evening...are one.)
1591:20 to 1592:14 (5. SPIRITUAL UNITY)
1625:36 to 45 (And this...honest opinions.)
1658:7 to 13 (Each of...question hours.)

OTHER SELECTIONS:

1666:8 to 20 (About this...his own.)
1732:12 to 23 (The religions...merciful ministration.)
1762:33 to 1763:19 ("The Father...of them.")
1764:8 to 17 (Thus did...and vengeance.)
1764:24 to 47 (Jesus went...world-wide brotherhood.)
1839:23 to 38 (After Jesus...the home.)
1866:20 to 27 (It is... and reprehensible.)
1921:32 to 1923:15 (2. EARLY HOME LIFE)
1926:40 to 49 (Judas did...of Jesus.)
2040:32 to 35 (Have faith...with you?)
2065:29 to 34 (Pentecost was...ever known.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 17
SERVING
OTHERS

We are working together more earnestly to serve our fellows in lasting ways, recognizing that we thus serve and honor our Father in heaven.

REFERENCES:

One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is *teamwork*....Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows. 312:10

Service — purposeful service, not slavery — is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service — more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service — is the goal of time and the destination of space. But ever will the play cycles of time alternate with the service cycles of progress. 316:23

When the spiritual tests of greatness are applied, the moral elements are not disregarded, but the quality of unselfishness revealed in disinterested labor for the welfare of one's earthly fellows, particularly worthy beings in need and in distress, that is the real *measure* of planetary greatness. 317:5

You will learn that you increase your burdens and decrease the likelihood of success by taking yourself too seriously. Nothing can take precedence over the work of your status sphere — this world or the next. Very important is the work of preparation for the next higher sphere, but nothing equals the importance of the work of the world in which you are actually living. But though the *work* is important, the *self* is not. When you feel important, you lose energy to the wear and tear of ego dignity so that there is little energy left to do the work. Self-importance, not work-importance, exhausts immature creatures; it is the self element that exhausts, not the effort to achieve. You can do important work if you do not become self-important; you can do several things as easily as one if you leave yourself out. 555:38

And when a human being does find God, there is experienced within the soul of that being such an indescribable restlessness of triumph in discovery that he is impelled to seek loving service-contact with his less illuminated fellows, not to disclose that he has found God, but rather to allow the overflow of the welling-up of eternal goodness within his own soul to refresh and ennoble his fellows. Real religion leads to increased social service. 1121:42

"Always remember that God does not reward man for what he does but for what he is; therefore should you extend help to your fellows without the thought of rewards. Do good without thought of benefit to the self." 1452:31

The Master fully realized that certain social results would appear in the world as a consequence of the spread of the gospel of the kingdom; but he intended that all such desirable social manifestations should appear as unconscious and inevitable outgrowths, or natural fruits, of this inner personal experience of individual believers, this purely spiritual fellowship and communion with the divine spirit which indwells and activates all such believers. 1865:6

"To every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who has not, even that which he has shall be taken away. You cannot stand still in the affairs of the eternal kingdom. My Father requires all his children to grow in grace and in a knowledge of the truth. You who know these truths must yield the increase of the fruits of the spirit and manifest a growing devotion to the unselfish service of your fellow servants. And remember that, inasmuch as you minister to one of the least of my brethren, you have done this service to me." 1917:27

Jesus taught that *service to one's fellows is the highest concept* of the brotherhood of spirit believers. Salvation should be taken for granted by those who believe in the fatherhood of God. The believer's chief concern should not be the selfish desire for personal salvation but rather the unselfish urge to love and, therefore, serve one's fellows even as Jesus loved and served mortal men. 2017:21

In winning souls for the Master, it is not the first mile of compulsion, duty or convention that will transform man and his world, but rather the *second* mile of free service and liberty-loving devotion that betokens the Jesusonian reaching forth to grasp his brother in love and sweep him on under spiritual guidance toward the higher and divine goal of mortal existence. Christianity even now willingly goes the *first* mile, but mankind languishes and stumbles along in the moral darkness because there are so few genuine second-milers — so few professed followers of Jesus who really live and love as he taught his disciples to live and love and serve.

The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh. 2084:27

OTHER SELECTIONS:

66:40 to 45 (The morality...humanity service.)
67:5 to 9 (God is...and superhuman.)
193:41 to 44 (Morality can...Father's will.)
245:2 to 19 (Mighty Messengers...actual rebellion.)
274:28 to 35 (The satisfying...universe realities.)

279:37 to 280:2 (Those mortals...to others.)
316:19 to 317:30 (5. *The Sanctity...survival character.*)
339:33 to 36 (The entire...of progression.)
556:31 to 33 (Effort does...intelligent effort.)
1000:11 to 24 (Mysticism, as...spiritual nourishment.)
1120:40 to 1121:19 (Evolutionary man...is dynamic!)
1206:31 to 41 (You must...universal duty.)
1283:20 to 1285:34 (4. *THE FINITE GOD*)
1463:12 to 21 ("And so...undeserved hardships.")
1463:40 to 43 (Everyone who...fellow men.)
1465:20 to 34 (Here in...their homes.)
1475:8 to 14 (To the...divine spirit.)
1603:34 to 46 (He next...social service.)
1656:10 to 47 (8. *THE FEAST OF SPIRITUAL GOODNESS*)
1727:24 to 30 (Increasingly they...to me.)
1740:10 to 45 (As the...kingdom builder.)
1769:14 to 1771:13 (5. *THE POSITIVE NATURE OF JESUS' RELIGION*)
1862:11 to 38 (It therefore...spiritual attainments.)
1868:9 to 20 (When they...their brethren.)
1883:23 to 34 (And now...her living?)
1893:1 to 20 (3. *PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS*)
1929:16 to 1932:27 (1. *DISCOURSE ON SONSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP*)
1939:38 to 1940:22 (In like...Last Supper.)
1987:25 to 30 (Although these...and eternity.)
2018:35 to 2019:18 (On millions...do likewise.)
2057:21 to 30 ("I bade...you. Farewell.")

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 18

SHARING
OUR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

We more willingly accept our obligation and privilege to help share the good news, and are striving to carry this knowledge of God's love to our fellows.

REFERENCES:

Spiritual development depends, first, on the maintenance of a living spiritual connection with true spiritual forces and, second, on the continuous bearing of spiritual fruit: yielding the ministry to one's fellows of that which has been received from one's spiritual benefactors. 1095:33

"Let me emphatically state this eternal truth: If you, by truth coordination, learn to exemplify in your lives this beautiful wholeness of righteousness, your fellow men will then seek after you that they may gain what you have so acquired. The measure wherewith truth seekers are drawn to you represents the measure of your truth endowment, your righteousness. The extent to which you have to go with your message to the people is, in a way, the measure of your failure to live the whole or righteous life, the truth-co-ordinated life." 1726:16.

"Are you fearful, soft, and ease-seeking? Are you afraid to trust your future in the hands of the God of truth, whose sons you are? Are you distrustful of the Father, whose children you are? Will you go back to the easy path of the certainty and intellectual settledness of the religion of traditional authority, or will you gird yourselves to go forward with me into that uncertain and troublous future of proclaiming the new truths of the religion of the spirit, the kingdom of heaven in the hearts of men?" 1730:16

"If any man would come after me, let him disregard himself, take up his responsibilities daily, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life selfishly, shall lose it, but whosoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's, shall save it. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What would a man give in exchange for eternal life? Be not ashamed of me and my words in this sinful and hypocritical generation, even as I will not be ashamed to acknowledge you when in glory I appear before my Father in the presence of all the celestial hosts." 1760:17

Remember that you are commissioned to preach this gospel of the kingdom — the supreme desire to do the Father's will coupled with the supreme joy of the faith realization of sonship with God — and you must not allow anything to divert your devotion to this one duty. Let all mankind benefit from the overflow of your loving spiritual ministry, enlightening intellectual communion, and uplifting social service; but none of these humanitarian labors, nor all of them, should be permitted to take the place of proclaiming the gospel. These mighty ministrations are the social by-products of the still more mighty and sublime ministrations and transformations wrought in the heart of the kingdom believer by the living Spirit of Truth and by the personal realization that the faith of a spirit-born man confers the assurance of living fellowship with the eternal God. 1931:8

You are not to be passive mystics or colorless ascetics; you should not become dreamers and drifters, supinely trusting in a fictitious Providence to provide even the necessities of life. You are indeed to be gentle in your dealings with erring mortals, patient in your intercourse with ignorant men, and forbearing under provocation; but you are also to be valiant in defense of righteousness, mighty in the promulgation of truth, and aggressive in the preaching of this gospel of the kingdom, even to the ends of the earth. 1931:36

Do not forget that you are commissioned to go forth preaching only the good news. You are not to attack the old ways; you are skillfully to put the leaven of new truth in the midst of the old beliefs. Let the Spirit of Truth do his own work. Let controversy come only when they who despise the truth force it upon you. But when the willful unbeliever attacks you, do not hesitate to stand in vigorous defense of the truth which has saved and sanctified you. 1932:12

"Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind. Freely you have received this gospel of the kingdom, and you will freely give the good news to all nations. Fear not the resistance of evil, for I am with you always, even to the end of the ages. And my peace I leave with you." 2042:8

To Philip he said, "Philip, do you obey me?" Philip answered, "Yes, Lord, I will obey you even with my life." Then said Jesus: "If you would obey me, go then into the lands of the gentiles and proclaim this gospel. The prophets have told you that to obey is better than to sacrifice. By faith have you become a God-knowing kingdom son. There is but one law to obey — that is the command to go forth proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. Cease to fear men; be unafraid to preach the good news of eternal life to your fellows who languish in darkness and hunger for the light of truth." 2049:10

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 1041:29 to 34 (All Urantia...of Jesus.)
- 1051:1 to 11 (Here and...among them.)
- 1328:6 to 13 ("5. As concerns...your universe.)
- 1329:39 to 43 ("3. In your...on Urantia.)
- 1430:17 to 49 (One of...and dying.)
- 1456:2 to 11 (And this...the empire.)
- 1460:27 to 1462:13 (4. PERSONAL MINISTRY)
- 1466:6 to 30 (Jesus, God...our lives.")
- 1474:4 to 1476:15 (4. PERSONAL WORK IN CORINTH)
- 1521:9 to 15 (Jesus chose...personal purposes.)
- 1535:22 to 29 (As they...to comprehend.)
- 1543:18 to 24 (In these...the anxious.")
- 1565:22 to 31 (The Master...Master's teaching.)

1568:1 to 1586:6 (PAPER 140: THE ORDINATION OF THE TWELVE)
 1592:15 to 1593:13 (6. LAST WEEK AT AMATHUS)
 1593:24 to 37 (Jesus endeavored...the individual.)
 1595:10 to 19 (On these...into effect.)
 1602:31 to 37 (Nicodemus replied:...of Man?)
 1607:17 to 1609:9 (1. PREACHING AT ARCHELAIS)
 1615:20 to 30 (When Jesus...the Baptist.)
 1640:13 to 14 (12. All...of heaven.)
 1670:46 to 1671:2 (The teachers...the differences.)
 1672:34 to 1673:5 (The religious...sacred law.)
 1681:27 to 1682:23 (4. SENDING THE APOSTLES OUT TWO AND TWO)
 1688:37 to 1689:8 ("A sower...him hear.")
 1691:16 to 27 (The words...no control.)
 1691:47 to 1693:2 (The apostles...subsequently encountered.)
 1705:21 to 36 (The second...character transformations.)
 1720:28 to 36 (At this...for them.)
 1725:10 to 1726:24 (1. WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?)
 1740:10 to 45 (As the...kingdom builder.)
 1750:5 to 9 ("From this...supreme sacrifice.")
 1761:5 to 31 (8. AT PETER'S HOUSE)
 1780:24 to 37 (When men...intellectual philosophy.)
 1800:19 to 1801:21 (1. ORDINATION OF THE SEVENTY)
 1804:40 to 1806:7 (4. FAREWELL TO THE SEVENTY)
 1806:37 to 1808:14 (6. THE RETURN OF THE SEVENTY)
 1819:3 to 6 ("You who...still waters.)
 1819:46 to 1820:47 (3. SABBATH SERMON AT PELLA)
 1823:3 to 1824:16 (5. TALKS TO THE APOSTLES ON WEALTH)
 1824:17 to 47 (6. ANSWER TO PETER'S QUESTION)
 1875:26 to 1877:10 (8. PARABLE OF THE POUNDS)
 1912:26 to 1913:6 (In answering...all nations.)
 1929:16 to 1932:27 (1. DISCOURSE ON SONSHIP AND
 CITIZENSHIP)
 1944:6 to 12 ("You well...a time.)
 1946:35 to 1947:13 (The eleven...a cause?)
 1951:14 to 35 (After Peter...mortal life.)
 1955:10 to 1962:38 (2. FAREWELL PERSONAL ADMONITIONS)
 2033:2 to 22 (The fifth...in silence.)
 2039:28 to 43 (When Peter...of men.)
 2043:3 to 32 ("Peace be...the flesh.")
 2044:20 to 36 ("Peace be...the ages.")
 2047:24 to 2050:2 (2. VISITING WITH THE APOSTLES TWO
 AND TWO)
 2052:12 to 2055:30 ("Peace be...the Father.")
 2059:3 to 9 (ABOUT one...the dead.)
 2064:27 to 49 (Pentecost, with...mutual trust.)
 2095:19 to 21 (Jesus revealed...human brotherhood.)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 19
LOVING
EACH OTHER

We are increasingly valuing others as beloved sons and daughters of God, and are striving to love each of them as does our Father in heaven.

REFERENCES:

These high levels of human living are attained in the supreme love of God and in the unselfish love of man. If you love your fellow men, you must have discovered their values. Jesus loved men so much because he placed such a high value upon them. You can best discover values in your associates by discovering their motivation. If some one irritates you, causes feelings of resentment, you should sympathetically seek to discern his viewpoint, his reasons for such objectionable conduct. If once you understand your neighbor, you will become tolerant, and this tolerance will grow into friendship and ripen into love. 1098:7

You cannot truly love your fellows by a mere act of the will. Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor's motives and sentiments. It is not so important to love all men today as it is that each day you learn to love one more human being. If each day or each week you achieve an understanding of one more of your fellows, and if this is the limit of your ability, then you are certainly socializing and truly spiritualizing your personality. Love is infectious, and when human devotion is intelligent and wise, love is more catching than hate. But only genuine and unselfish love is truly contagious. If each mortal could only become a focus of dynamic affection, this benign virus of love would soon pervade the sentimental emotion-stream of humanity to such an extent that all civilization would be encompassed by love, and that would be the realization of the brotherhood of man. 1098:28

Everything nonspiritual in human experience, excepting personality, is a means to an end. Every true relationship of mortal man with other persons — human or divine — is an end in itself. 1228:16

Jesus naturally loved his people; he loved his family, and this natural affection had been tremendously augmented by his extraordinary devotion to them. The more fully we bestow ourselves upon our fellows, the more we come to love them; and since Jesus had given himself so fully to his family, he loved them with a great and fervent affection. 1419:11

The disciples early learned that the Master had a profound respect and sympathetic regard for every human being he met, and they were tremendously impressed by this uniform and unvarying consideration which he so consistently gave to all sorts of men, women, and children. He would pause in the midst of a profound discourse that he might go out in the road to speak good cheer to a passing woman laden with her burden of body and soul. He would interrupt a serious conference with his apostles to fraternize with an intruding child. Nothing ever seemed so important to Jesus as the *individual human* who chanced to be in his immediate presence. 1545:46

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

From the Sermon on the Mount to the discourse of the Last Supper, Jesus taught his followers to manifest *fatherly* love rather than *brotherly* love. Brotherly love would love your neighbor as you love yourself, and that would be adequate fulfillment of the "golden rule." But fatherly affection would require that you should love your fellow mortals as Jesus loves you....A father's affection can attain levels of devotion that immeasurably transcend a brother's affection. 1573:10

"You well know the commandment which directs that you love one another; that you love your neighbor even as yourself. But I am not wholly satisfied with even that sincere devotion on the part of my children. I would have you perform still greater acts of love in the kingdom of the believing brotherhood. And so I give you this new commandment: That you love one another even as I have loved you. And by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you thus love one another." 1944:25

In the kingdom of the believing brotherhood of God-knowing truth lovers, this golden rule takes on living qualities of spiritual realization on those higher levels of interpretation which cause the mortal sons of God to view this injunction of the Master as requiring them so to relate themselves to their fellows that they will receive the highest possible good as a result of the believer's contact with them. This is the essence of true religion: that you love your neighbor as yourself. 1950:12

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 598:8 to 16 (5. *Spiritual insight... of man.*)
- 648:17 to 24 (To finite...to others.)
- 1187:47 to 1188:4 (4. The spirit...mortal minister.)
- 1228:5 to 20 (The universe...universe ascension.)
- 1235:27 to 39 (The Thought...on Urantia.)
- 1279:37 to 40 (Michael, a...the Supreme.)
- 1431:1 to 10 (Ganid was...of living.")
- 1454:19 to 26 (But first...of heaven.)
- 1486:36 to 38 (The brotherhood...of them.)
- 1573:9 to 1575:47 (5. FATHERLY AND BROTHERLY LOVE)
- 1651:3 to 21 (The level...like circumstances.")
- 1809:18 to 1810:28 (1. STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN)
- 2041:37 to 2042:7 ("Peace be...my disciples.)

STEP 20
LOVING
JESUS

We are coming to know
and love Jesus, and our
friendship with him
increasingly gives our lives energy,
enthusiasm, warmth and purpose.

REFERENCES:

To our universe and all its inhabited worlds the Sovereign Son is, to all practical intents and purposes, God. 367:5

Though the Spirit of Truth is poured out upon all flesh, this spirit of the Son is almost wholly limited in function and power by man's personal reception of that which constitutes the sum and substance of the mission of the bestowal Son. 379:36

Even on Urantia, these seraphim teach the everlasting truth: If your own mind does not serve you well, you can exchange it for the mind of Jesus of Nazareth, who always serves you well. 553:46

Jesus was the perfectly unified human personality. And today, as in Galilee, he continues to unify mortal experience and to coordinate human endeavors. He unifies life, ennobles character, and simplifies experience. He enters the human mind to elevate, transform, and transfigure it. It is literally true: "If any man has Christ Jesus within him, he is a new creature; old things are passing away; behold, all things are becoming new." 1103:27

Jesus was and is the new and living way whereby man can come into the divine inheritance which the Father has decreed shall be his for but the asking. 1113:28

Jesus made it plain that he had come to establish personal and eternal relations with men which should forever take precedence over all other human relationships. 1593:38

On both friends and foes he exercised a strong and peculiarly fascinating influence. Multitudes would follow him for weeks, just to hear his gracious words and behold his simple life. Devoted men and women loved Jesus with a well-nigh superhuman affection. And the better they knew him the more they loved him. And all this is still true; even today and in all future ages, the more man comes to know this God-man, the more he will love and follow after him. 1672:18

These gentiles were not afraid of Jesus; they dared to accept his message. All down through the ages men have not been unable to comprehend Jesus; they have been afraid to. 1736:13

Jesus is the spiritual lens in human likeness which makes visible to the material creature him who is invisible. He is your elder brother who, in the flesh, makes *known* to you a Being of infinite attributes whom not even the celestial hosts can presume fully to understand. But all of this must consist in the personal experience of the *individual believer*. 1857:20

"You must abide in me, and I in you; the branch will die if it is separated from the vine. As the branch cannot bear fruit except it abides in the vine, so neither can you yield the fruits of loving service except you abide in me. Remember: I am the real vine, and you are the living branches. He who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit of the spirit and experience the supreme joy of yielding this spiritual harvest. If you will maintain this living spiritual connection with me, you will bear abundant fruit. If you abide in me and my words live in you, you will be able to commune freely with me, and then can my living spirit so infuse you that you may ask whatsoever my spirit wills and do all this with the assurance that the Father will grant us our petition." 1945:31

Christianity has indeed done a great service for this world, but what is now most needed is Jesus. The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men. It is futile to talk about a revival of primitive Christianity; you must go forward from where you find yourselves. Modern culture must become spiritually baptized with a new revelation of Jesus' life and illuminated with a new understanding of his gospel of eternal salvation. And when Jesus becomes thus lifted up, he will draw all men to himself. Jesus' disciples should be more than conquerors, even overflowing sources of inspiration and enhanced living to all men. 2084:2

You learn about God from Jesus by observing the divinity of his life, not by depending on his teachings. From the life of the Master you may each assimilate that concept of God which represents the measure of your capacity to perceive realities spiritual and divine, truths real and eternal. The finite can never hope to comprehend the Infinite except as the Infinite was focalized in the time-space personality of the finite experience of the human life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus well knew that God can be known only by the realities of experience; never can he be understood by the mere teaching of the mind. Jesus taught his apostles that, while they never could fully understand God, they could most certainly *know* him, even as they had known the Son of Man. You can know God, not by understanding what Jesus said, but by knowing what Jesus was. Jesus *was* a revelation of God. 1856:4

To "follow Jesus" means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it. 2090:39

OTHER SELECTIONS:

- 28:9 to 23 (In the...animal evolution.)
- 30:40 to 47 (God is...human experience.)
- 33:3 to 20 (INASMUCH as...Universal Father.)
- 40:10 to 17 (But the...human soul.)
- 41:9 to 16 (The concept...universe personality.)
- 44:3, to 14 (GOD is...Paradise Deities.)
- 53:32 to 34 (And all...on Urantia.)
- 66:10 to 18 (The Creator...Creator Sons.)
- 87:32 to 88:7 (In spirit...the Son.)
- 89:8 to 31 (The primal...of God.)
- 109:28 to 33 (Since the...the Spirit.)
- 196:10 to 14 (Jesus not...all men.)
- 224:20 to 36 (The Creator...Creator Son.)
- 228:40 to 229:49 (The method...bestowal mission.)
- 234:3 to 14 (THE Creator...their children.)
- 361:6 to 19 (The farther...the Father.)
- 367:3 to 14 (The Creator...of Nebadon.)
- 454:24 to 29 (As mortals...divine perfection.)
- 596:13 to 16 (The bestowal...be free.)
- 1083:39 to 44 (A Creator...to himself.)
- 1128:11 to 20 (But religion...of Nazareth.)
- 1200:30 to 48 (The activities...mortal experience.)
- 1281:29 to 38 (Said Jesus:...infinite God.)
- 1323:10 to 14 (To live...and beings.)
- 1326:3 to 8 ("Throughout your...on Urantia.)
- 1328:26 to 1329:8 ("7. In all...the flesh.)
- 1331:3 to 31 (4. THE INCARNATION - MAKING TWO ONE)
- 1405:18 to 1406:5 (Jesus is...to God.)
- 1407:11 to 16 (Always be...Universal Father.)
- 1407:19 to 1409:41 (1. THE TWENTY-FIRST YEAR A.D. 15)
- 1413:5 to 27 (Jesus most...his teachings.)
- 1417:3 to 9 (At this...and knowledge.)
- 1424:40 to 1426:17 (4. THE HUMAN JESUS)
- 1481:32 to 40 (At last...with you.)
- 1534:7 to 25 (Throughout these...of men.)
- 1542:12 to 21 (When they...in heaven.)
- 1543:9 to 17 (Jesus endeavored...taught them.)
- 1544:46 to 1545:2 (Jesus enjoined...loved him.)
- 1546:16 to 31 (This somewhat...the kingdom.)
- 1550:11 to 16 (Every one...know him.)
- 1562:1 to 13 (The other...the twelve.)
- 1581:46 to 1582:30 (5. Personal...and hypocrisy.)
- 1584:45 to 47 (But they...with him.)
- 1593:14 to 1595:5 (7. AT BETHANY BEYOND JORDAN)
- 1604:29 to 47 (For hours...to God.)
- 1612:21 to 28 (The antagonisms...the Samaritans.)
- 1617:24 to 27 (As time...on earth.)
- 1639:39 to 42 (9. "I have...Father's will.")
- 1663:40 to 47 ("And who...of Job.)
- 1670:10 to 1672:23 (2. ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE)
- 1674:1 to 11 (It was...upon him.)
- 1682:44 to 1683:3 (Salvation is...and acceptable.)
- 1700:3 to 12 (Never before...all mankind.)
- 1710:21 to 1712:20 ("What new...heavenly Father.")
- 1747:11 to 45 (After they...of spirits.)

1748:8 to 12 (In the...of heaven.)
 1749:1 to 9 (Neither Peter...more abundantly.)
 1750:14 to 38 ("No man...this gospel.")
 1784:45 to 1785:5 (When Rodan...and philosophy?)
 1785:6 to 1787:12 (2. THE DIVINE NATURE OF JESUS)
 1791:15 to 26 (Then said...to you.)
 1792:1 to 10 ("I hear...Father's presence.)
 1794:44 to 1795:35 (5. SERMON ON THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.)
 1795:34 to 1796:23 (6. DISCOURSE ON THE WATER OF LIFE)
 1796:24 to 1797:39 (7. THE DISCOURSE ON SPIRITUAL FREEDOM)
 1815:28 to 1816:11 (This was...council chamber.)
 1818:14 to 1819:45 (2. SERMON ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD)
 1843:8 to 13 (Then said...this world?)
 1855:28 to 1857:28 (4. THE FATHER AND HIS KINGDOM)
 1874:28 to 1875:25 (7. "AS JESUS PASSED BY")
 1903:18 to 1904:35 ("As Jesus...deep meditation.)
 1915:1 to 19 ("You behold...draws near.)
 1919:27 to 38 (The second...to appear.)
 1920:31 to 1921:31 (1. ONE DAY ALONE WITH GOD)
 1946:34 to 1948:7 (3. ENMITY OF THE WORLD)
 1948:8 to 1949:12 (4. THE PROMISED HELPER)
 1951:34 to 1952:4 ("Now that...to you.)
 1963:22 to 1965:47 (1. THE LAST GROUP PRAYER)
 2002:8 to 2003:21 (5. JESUS' DEATH IN RELATION TO THE PASSOVER)
 2016:19 to 2017:45 (4. MEANING OF THE DEATH ON THE CROSS)
 2017:46 to 2019:44 (5. LESSONS FROM THE CROSS)
 2029:9 to 12 (All this...natural death.)
 2034:20 to 2036:13 (5. THE WALK WITH TWO BROTHERS)
 2043:33 to 47 (When the...mortal ear.)
 2060:33 to 2062:20 (2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PENTECOST)
 2062:29 to 2066:5 (3. WHAT HAPPENED AT PENTECOST)
 2066:14 to 23 (Then comes...their souls.)
 2082:23 to 2083:49 (9. CHRISTIANITY'S PROBLEM)
 2086:7 to 10 (The great...professed followers.)
 2087:3 to 2090:7 (JESUS enjoyed...he believed.)
 2090:3 to 2091:25 (1. JESUS - THE MAN)
 2091:26 to 2093:39 (2. THE RELIGION OF JESUS)

PERSONAL NOTES & REFERENCES:

STEP 21
LOVING
GOD

As a result of sincerely striving to live these principles of the spiritual life, we are growing in our knowledge, love and worship of the heavenly Father, the Source of that infinite love which created and ever sustains us.

REFERENCES:

The enlightened worlds all recognize and worship the Universal Father, the eternal maker and infinite upholder of all creation. The will creatures of universe upon universe have embarked upon the long, long Paradise journey, the fascinating struggle of the eternal adventure of attaining God the Father. The transcendent goal of the children of time is to find the eternal God, to comprehend the divine nature, to recognize the Universal Father. God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection of personality and in his universal sphere of righteous supremacy. From the Universal Father who inhabits eternity there has gone forth the supreme mandate, "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect." In love and mercy the messengers of Paradise have carried this divine exhortation down through the ages and out through the universes, even to such lowly animal-origin creatures as the human races of Urantia. 21:21

The Universal Father never imposes any form of arbitrary recognition, formal worship, or slavish service upon the intelligent will creatures of the universes. The evolutionary inhabitants of the world of time and space must of themselves—in their own hearts—recognize, love, and voluntarily worship him. The Creator refuses to coerce or compel the submission of the spiritual free wills of his material creatures. The affectionate dedication of the human will to the doing of the Father's will is man's choicest gift to God; in fact, such a consecration of creature will constitutes man's only possible gift of true value to the Paradise Father. In God, man lives, moves, and has his being; there is nothing which man can give to God except this choosing to abide by the Father's will, and such decisions, effected by the intelligent will creatures of the universes, constitute the reality of that true worship which is so satisfying to the love-dominated nature of the Creator Father. 22:32

Notwithstanding that God is an eternal power, a majestic presence, a transcendent ideal, and a glorious spirit, though he is all these and infinitely more, nonetheless, he is truly and everlastingly a perfect Creator personality, a person who can "know and be known," who can "love and be loved," and one who can befriend us; while you can be known, as other humans have been known, as the friend of God. 28:26

After all, the greatest evidence of the goodness of God and the supreme reason for loving him is the indwelling gift of the Father—the Adjuster who so patiently awaits the hour when you both shall be eternally made one. Though you cannot find God by searching, if you will submit to the leading of the indwelling spirit, you will be unerringly guided, step by step, life by life, through universe upon universe, and age by age, until you finally stand in the presence of the Paradise personality of the Universal Father. 39:20

Our Father is not in hiding; he is not in arbitrary seclusion. He has mobilized the resources of divine wisdom in a never-ending effort to reveal himself to the children of his universal domains. There is an infinite grandeur and an inexpressible generosity connected with the majesty of his love which causes him to yearn for the association of every created being who can comprehend, love, or approach him; and it is, therefore, the limitations inherent in you, inseparable from your finite personality and material existence, that determine the time and place and circumstances in which you may achieve the goal of the journey of mortal ascension and stand in the presence of the Father at the center of all things. 62:35

The Father desires all his creatures to be in personal communion with him. He has on Paradise a place to receive all those whose survival status and spiritual nature make possible such attainment. Therefore settle in your philosophy now and forever: To each of you and to all of us, God is approachable, the Father is attainable, the way is open; the forces of divine love and the ways and means of divine administration are all interlocked in an effort to facilitate the advancement of every worthy intelligence of every universe to the Paradise presence of the Universal Father. 63:37

There is absolutely no self-request or other element of personal interest in true worship; we simply worship God for what we comprehend him to be. Worship asks nothing and expects nothing for the worshiper. We do not worship the Father because of anything we may derive from such veneration; we render such devotion and engage in such worship as a natural and spontaneous reaction to the recognition of the Father's matchless personality and because of his loveable nature and adorable attributes. 65:39

We worship God, first, because *he is*, then, because *he is in us*, and last, because *we are in him*. 196:40

And all these things are a part of the Universal Father. The Father is living love, and this life of the Father is in his Sons. And the spirit of the Father is in his Sons' sons — mortal men. When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God. 2097:18