

The one creative force, Life, impels thought, through Soul as Spirit, to identify as substantial only one thing,--divine order, divine purity, reality.

Time and time again you and I begin to realize that there is only the one creative force of infinite Life ever going on, and we begin to realize in some measure that " Beloved, now are we the sons of God." Then mortal mind will tempt us to work from some other basis than the reality, purity, and substance of that idea. It will try to get us to force fruit that is not the fruit of the Spirit. It will try often and often to get us to cast ourselves down from the pinnacle by adopting the processes of materia medica, false theology, intellectualism, commercialism, and so on. And so the temptation comes to us not to identify the fact that we are the sons of God, not to see that Life and Life alone impels our ordered development. Sometimes when we see spiritual things operating in our lives, we are tempted to force our demonstrations, instead of developing along the straight line of Spirit. We try to walk on the water before we can even swim. We push and pull humanly, instead of working through spiritual means alone, because we think " I'm the son of God, and nothing is too good for me," before we have begun to prove that position. And so we mix the human and the divine. That is the pride of life, and it's disastrous. Jesus worked out everything through Spirit alone, and therefore he never had to go back. We often have to go back, because we try to mingle Spirit and matter and so we make mistakes. If we let ourselves be jockeyed by ambition and the pride of life, we very soon find ourselves " strangers in a tangled wilderness." But Soul as Spirit, from the standpoint of Life, identifies our true spiritual selfhood in the divine order. The individuality of Life fulfils our demonstration at the right time.

The temptation which came to Jesus to put his sense of Truth into the rich and well-established Jewish temple must have been very great. To-day we are sometimes tempted to work out our development in Christian Science through some material " temple," but thank God we are beginning to learn that every time we try that, it fails. We can work out our demonstration as the sons of God in Christian Science on one basis only,-the basis of individuality, inspiration, and exaltation, on that which is called Life,-and on no other basis. The impulsion of the one Life operates to identify the only way, the ordered way of Spirit, the substantial way, the way of real development. The only development is that of eternal Life, Truth. and Love.

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