

THE UNITY SOCIETY of PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

Unity Building, 913-915 Tracy Avenue

Kansas City, Missouri

August 29

Mr. Charles Fillmore,

City.

My dear Mr. Fillmore:-

Sunday night I dreamed that I was in a body of soldiers and they were seeking a chaplain. There was only one ordained minister there and he was appointed. Then they all went away and left me standing there with only one or two soldiers. This puzzled me quite a bit until Monday night at the teachers meeting and now I take it that it was a warning for me to be prepared.

In face of my understanding of this dream, I make application to you for the ordination of the society. Should you, after giving me a thorough examination, deem me worthy of this appointment, I shall accept it with gratitude as a symbol of that which I feel is already mine from the ONE.

Thanking you for your consideration of the matter, and awaiting the pleasure of yourself and the committee, I am

Most earnestly,

*E. Ingraham*

Kansas City, Mo., Sept 7, 1918

Mr. Charles Fillmore,  
City.

Dear Mr. Fillmore:-

I hand you herewith the result of but three hours work, as I have much demand upon my time for the balance of the day

I have tried to answer these questions just as I feel in the depths of my being, regardless of what I have been taught. That is, I have tried to express myself in my own words just as I would in explaining things to other people in order that you may know the working of my mind and just what my beliefs are. This I feel is the true object of this test. It would be very easy to answer these questions in the language of the literal teaching of Unity, but this would mean nothing to you, nor to me.

Awaiting your pleasure in the matter, and knowing that the Spirit of Truth brings about that which is in strict accord with itself, and assuring you of my perfect willingness to abide by the final outcome, regardless of what it may be, I am

Most earnestly yours,

*E. J. Ingraham*

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR THEOLOGICAL  
STUDENTS OF THE UNITY SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN-  
ITY, UNITY BUILDING, TENTH & TRACY AVE., KANSAS CITY MISSOURI.

Q. 1. What is God, metaphysically explained?

God is Universal Mind, the One Underlying Creative Principle of the Universe: Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent.

Q. 2. What is the Lord God?

God Identified. The I AM of creation.

Q. 3. What is Adam?

Adam was the original creation of the Spiritual I AM, who gradually lost consciousness of his real identity, and identifying himself as an independent being according to the dual standard of good and evil.

Q. 4. What is Christ?

Christ is the Spiritual I AM, always abiding within man. The Divine Idea of man which, when understood and accepted may become the quickening spirit, redeeming the entire man.

Q. 5. What is the Holy Ghost?

Described in the scripture as the third person of the Trinity. Metaphysically speaking this would be the expression. Holy Ghost would be the first expression of the Whole, and its descent into the consciousness of man comes through obedience to Divine Law, and is the SIGN BY WHICH MAN SHALL CONQUER IN THIS DAY.

Q. 6. What is Man?

Man in his true sense is the highest creation of God, embodying all the potentialities of the God-head. Man as he appears is but the manifestation of that which he in his own mind has substituted for the Divine Ideal.

Q. 7. What is Soul?

Soul is the underlying idea back of an expression. The soul of man in its true sense is the Divine Ideal of man. In its present sense is the sum total of all his accumulated consciousness, stored up within him, and affecting his present expression accordingly.

Q. 8. What is body?

Body is but the outward manifestation of ideas stored up or active in the consciousness of man. In other words it is crystalized thought.

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Q. 9. What is Spirit?

Spirit denotes action. God as Spirit, is the moving of the God Mind toward expression. When all the activities of our minds and bodies conform to the activities of the God Mind, we are filled with the Spirit of God. Spirit and Mind may be said to be synonymous, Spirit being a higher manifestation than mind in its ordinary sense. But the idea of action seems to give it its truest meaning--Divine Mind moving according to its original standard.

Q. 10. How are Spirit, Soul and Body related?

They are inter-related and interdependent as mind, idea and expression, each is required to complete the other. When functioning properly through man they should be but different degrees or phases of Divine Mind, blending as one.

Q. 11. How does God create?

God creates by His Word.

Q. 12. What is the Son of Man?

The Son of man is the man conceived in the mind of man, according to the standards of man.

Q. 13. What is the Son of God?

The Son of God is the man conceived in the mind of God according to the standards of the God Mind.

Q. 14. What relation do we bear to Jesus Christ?

Before the law we stand equal with Jesus Christ and have the same privileges as did he. It rests with us as to whether we avail ourselves of these privileges and demonstrate the law as did he.

Q. 15. What is the difference between Jesus and Christ?

Jesus was his material identity. Christ was his spiritual identity. At the resurrection this Jesus or material identity was lifted up into the Christ or spiritual identity. To the spiritually illumined the Christ is apparent in all men and we see all men according to their Spiritual Identity or as the Christ. Christ was not confined to Jesus, but is universal to all, and may be manifest by all who believe.

Q. 16. What is the symbology of the Twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ?

They are symbolical of the twelve powers or faculties of man.

Q. 17. Is the Spirit confined to the body?

In Genesis it says "the Spirit of God moved upon the face

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of the deep". We would thus assume that it is universal in its character. However man's great need is the realization of this Spirit as it moves within himself.

Q. 18. What Disciple represents Faith?

Peter is the disciple of Faith.

Q. 19. What disciple represents Love?

Love is typified by the Disciple John.

Q. 20. What is man's first duty in demonstrating the power of the Spirit?

Man's first duty in demonstrating the power of the Spirit is to use it for the advancement of the Kingdom and to the glory of God. He should first seek to show this forth in his own flesh, that all men may know the power of the Spirit within themselves.

Q. 21. How can we increase our Spiritual power?

Through knowledge and use. Increase comes through use.

Q. 22. How can we bring forth the Spiritual power of others?

First through being filled with the power of Spirit ourselves, and secondly by recognizing that all men are blessed even as we are. Through seeing all men as equal to our highest concept. Until we show this forth, we may also help them to a degree by teaching them, but we teach most by that which we are.

Q. 23. Do we heal people?

No.

Q. 24. How are they healed?

They are truly healed by a conscious awakening of the Spirit of God within themselves and its activity through them. We may become an instrument through which the Spirit of God works to bring about this awakening. The Word of God is the one true healing agency for all time.

Q. 25. How do we preach the gospel?

Primarily by our lives in living according to the Christ standard. Secondarily with our lips by telling people the glad news contained in the Truth of Being.

Q. 26. Who is our leader?

The Christ Spirit as expressed in Jesus, and revealed in the heart of each man.

Q. 27. Is the Bible the Word of God?

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The bible is a book which bears testimony of the Word of God and its mighty work for the race of man.

Q. 28. Who is the inspiring guide of all your thoughts and acts?

The Spirit of Truth within. Sometimes called the Christ Mind, and also the Super Conscious Mind.

Q. 29. Does God answer prayer?

God has answered our prayers by giving to us always the true spirit of our desire.

Q. 30. How should we pray?

We should pray believing that we have received. Prayer should be an acceptance of that which God has already prepared for us.

Q. 31. How often should we pray?

Without ceasing. We should continually be receiving and expressing that which God has given to us.

Q. 32. What cases are beyond the help of God?

None. One may place themselves for a time where they do not receive the healing power of God, through their unbelief.

Q. 33. Is it God's will that any should remain unassisted?

No.

Q. 34. What does water baptism typify?

Cleansing. The purification of man's mind of his own mortal beliefs.

Q. 35. What is the real meaning of the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

The conscious receiving of the inspiration of Spirit.

Q. 36. Did Jesus Christ die on the Cross?

There is no death. The death of Jesus on the cross is symbolic of the final giving up of self to Spirit. The giving up of personal will to the will of God. Best expressed by Jesus' words, "Unto thee do I yield my spirit".

Q. 37. Does Christianity teach that death is the open door to Heaven?

Not death in its generally accepted sense, but as described in the preceding answer. In Paul's description "I die daily".

Q. 38. What is heaven, and where is it.

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The Kingdom of Heaven is a state of consciousness, or a realm of ideas which move in strict accord with Divine Principle. Heaven is therefore Omnipresent, since Divine Mind is Omnipresent, but the Kingdom of Heaven is within man when this realm of Divine Ideas is set up therein.

Q. 39. Do our souls go to Heaven before we die, or after?

The true soul of man is always of the Father and one with Him. Man has created of himself a realm of secondary ideas becoming in a sense his present soul. This realm of ideas must be lifted up, also the body until the whole man functions in accord with the Father Mind, and this harmonious state we call Heaven, and the lifting up of that which is less in standard than the True Soul is going to heaven.

Q. 40. What is the redemption taught in Christianity in its practical sense?

The lifting up of the whole man to the standard of the Christ. This is individual and each man through the power of the Spirit given unto him, may redeem, or re-establish his whole self in its original relationship with the Father.

Q. 41. What relation does sin bear to sickness? What is sin?

Sin is the cause of sickness. Sin is the activity of man's forces according to his own standards and which are less than the One standard, the Christ.

Q. 42. Is there a devil?

No. Man's only opposing force is of his own thought creation.

Q. 43. Is evil real?

From the viewpoint of Principle there is no evil. It is merely a creation which man has substituted for the real and named it evil.

Q. 44. How is evil done away with?

Evil is done away with by denying it a place in consciousness, and filling the mind with a knowledge of the Truth.

Q. 45. What thought will destroy the fear of evil and devil.

The thought that there is but God, and that I rest secure in this One Presence and Power. I am courageous in all that I do through my knowledge that there is but God.

Q. 46. What thought will destroy hate?

The thought that all men are of God, who is Love, even as I am. If I am of God, Love, and all men are of God, Love, I am love and all men are Love: therefore there is but Love.

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Q. 47. What thought will destroy poverty?

The thought that God is Omnipresent, Inexhaustible, Indestructable Substance, given to all men equally from the foundations of the Universe.

Q. 48. What thought will destroy anxiety?

Absolute trust, based on the knowledge that God is Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent, ever available to us at all times and under all circumstances. Also to know that anxiety contracts ones mind and limits their ability to receive the benefits of this Divine Principle.

Q. 49. Give the teaching of Jesus on the above error.

Take no anxious thought. Consider the lily, they toil not, neither do they spin, yet the Heavenly Father careth for them. Your Heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of these things. Etc. Etc.

Q. 50. How real are sin, disease, poverty and death?

Just as real as one's faith in them. To the Spiritually awake these things do not exist.

Q. 51. Is it possible for man to overcome these to the uttermost?

All things are possible to he who believes. To as many as receive the Spirit of God, to them is given the power to become the Sons of God, and to the Son is given the power to overcome all things. To the Son is given dominion.

Q. 52. What is "the end of the world"?

The end of man-made ideas. When all ideas which man has evolved shall have been done away with and the fullness of the Divine Mind is known and made manifest in the life of man.

Q. 53. When will the end of the world come to us?

Whenever we have purified our minds of all ideas which do not admit the fulness of their Divine Nature. When we have done with earthly standards, and accepted in their stead the Divine Standard.

Q. 54. What is death?

Death is that great giving up of all material ideas. When this is not carried out in the daily life of the individual it results in the necessity of giving up the body when it becomes too burdened with the weight of his own material ideas. The man who knows dies daily, or daily gives up his limited ideas for the true ideas of Spirit.

Q. 55. Why do people die?

Because they accumulate more man made ideas than they can

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By sin, death came into the world. To sin is to limitedly express a Divine quality, or idea,--to fall short. Life comes in the Fullness of Spirit.

Q. 56 Does the I AM, or Real Identity, of the man die?

No.

Q. 57 What becomes of the I AM when it loses its body?

It passes into the unmanifest side of Spirit that it may learn the value and necessity of a body.

Q. 58. When will the I AM be satisfied and in harmony with the creative law?

When it has overcome death and resurrected or lifted the body up to the standard of the real I AM, transcending the law of birth and death, or reincarnation.

Q. 59 What is the standard of man's every thought?

Just what he makes it. It should be according to the Christ standard, or every thought should be maintained in consciousness according to its original nature and activity in Divine Mind.

Q. 60. Do you intend to give all your time to this ministry, or do you expect to have other occupations?

I intend to give all my time to this ministry. There is but one occupation to the Christ man, and that is the expression of God.

Q. 61. How do you prove the doctrine in your own life?

By applying the Principles of Practical Christianity in the many conditions of life, I daily prove this doctrine.

Q. 62. How do you overcome the sins of the flesh?.

By daily bringing so-called physical and mental forces into obedience to the activities of the Christ Mind. By lifting all forces up until they become agencies in expressing my higher self.

Q. 63. Do you use stimulants or intoxicating beverages?

I do not,

Q. 64. Do you use tobacco in any form?

I do not.

Q. 65. What is your interpretation of the command, "Thou shalt not kill?"

I take this to mean that nothing should be destroyed in order that I might live. The Christ man comes not to destroy but to fulfill. He is filled full, fed abundantly by the Spirit both in pure spiritual substance and in its symbol in fruit, nuts, and vegetables. He who lives in love would not destroy other life in order that he might live.

Q. 66. Do you intend to practice under the "free-will offering" plan, or do you intend to charge a stated price. In other words do you look to God or to man for your support?

I accept my Divine Sonship which the Father offers to all men. I therefore will not work as an hireling, but know that out of the Father's rich storehouse, I shall be abundantly provided for if this consciousness is maintained. God is my support and has never failed me when I live in this consciousness. I could not conduct a spiritual work under any other plan.

Q. 67. To what extent have you demonstrated the Law of God as your support?

With but few exceptions for the last seven or eight years I have lived under this plan, and in these few cases I have also recognized that this provision came from the One Source even though my service seemed to be of a different character.

Q. 68. Do you believe that any power without can interfere with or oppose your work?

I believe fully in the One Presence and One Power, therefore there can be no contrary influence in my life. No adverse influence can interfere with the life of any man, unless he accepts and recognizes its power.