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Forgiveness

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The Electronic Search Tool is an ideal way to begin your in-depth study. Though the list of possible search words on this month's topic is long, here are just a few suggestions:

(For specific citations add quotation marks around phrase.)

“forgive me”

“forgive them”

“forgive yourself”

“forgiveness is”

forgiving

“for your enemy”

“I forgive you”

“pray for your enemy”

“see him as he is”

“seventy times seven”

“to be forgiving”

FORGIVENESS

From *The Thunder of Silence*

... For nearly two thousand years the world has prayed, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” unaware perhaps that this teaching represents the very core, the very heart and soul, of the good life. Over and over again Jesus extols the virtues of forgiveness.

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. ...

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 5:23, 24; 6:15

... From the moment of waking in the morning until going to sleep at night, there must be periods in the day in which we consciously remember:

I forgive. If I have aught against any man, woman, or child, here and now I forgive—completely, perfectly, entirely. If anyone’s misdeeds persist in coming back to my memory, over and over again I will forgive. I seek no punishment for anyone; I seek no revenge; I seek no justice—I loose everyone and let him go.

Father, forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me. Father, open the eyes of the blind. Father, open the eyes of the enemy, whether they are of my household or another’s.

... Over and over again, we must forgive, forgive, forgive, and hold no man in judgment, criticism, or condemnation.

The Thunder of Silence
Chapter 15 – “As We Forgive”

From *The Art of Spiritual Living*

...There are occasions when it would be hypocrisy to say that we are able to forgive. There are some offenses we cannot forgive; we cannot forgive the damage some people have done. The hurt and harm they have done, whether to individuals or to nations, is so great that we would find it impossible of ourselves to be forgiving. Even if we could pay lip service and say that we forgive, in our hearts we know that it is not completely so. But again we have recourse to: “I can of mine own self do nothing.” I cannot forgive this experience, this person, or this event, but certainly I can pray that God forgive him. Even if I humanly do not have that capacity for forgiveness, at least I know enough to know that forgiveness is right and, therefore, let me pray:

Father, forgive him, that he be not held in bondage to his offenses but that he be forgiven and that the spirit of Christ open his consciousness to truth, to reality, to the right.

The Art of Spiritual Living
Chapter 11 – “Impersonalizing the Visible”

From *Leave Your Nets*

...You may be surprised and shocked at some of the things that you see even in those who apparently have gone some distance on the path. But be charitable. Remember that that is just a little human weakness, and you may be sure that the Christ is going to dissolve it because the activity of the

Christ is the dissolution of humanhood, of your weaknesses and your illusions.

Patience! Patience! You have an eternity in which to work out your salvation. Patience! Be patient with one another, and be patient with yourself. Forgive yourself, and as often as you fall down, pick yourself up again. You have no choice! Inevitably, the voice will sound in your ear, “Come! Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

You will know then that it is *I* calling. You will know then that it is not your will, and therefore, you cannot experience either success or failure. Remember that you cannot succeed or fail. Why? Because *I* have called you and made you “fishers of men,” and it will be *My* success working in you and through you for *My* purpose, and you will be but the instrument.

Leave Your Nets

Chapter 12 – “Fishers of Men”

From *The Mystical I*

... It is never the *I*, the *I Am*, God, that deserts you; it is never This that abandons you. There is no sin that you could commit deep or scarlet enough that would compel God, the *I Am*, to forsake you. The sins you commit compel you to forsake God because you cannot face Him with the sins. Once you know this, you will face Him again with repentance because scripture reveals that the way of return to your conscious oneness with God is through repentance.

Look to the Master within you and say, “Forgive me.” Acknowledge the wrong, whether in spoken words or just through the eyes. Let the Master know that you are ready to be taken back to heaven, and then you will find that you are again one with the Father. Though your sins have been scarlet, they will be white as snow the moment you

close your eyes and look within to the *I*: “Father, forgive me I knew not what I was doing.” Like the Prodigal Son, you will find that as you reach out one per cent of the way toward your Father’s house, your Father will come out the other ninety-nine per cent of the way to meet you, to robe you and ring you once again with the royal robe and the royal ring.

The Mystical I

Chapter 1 – “I Stand at the Door”

From *Our Spiritual Resources*

... Remember that your function is to reveal the Christ, and instead of sitting in judgment on the Magdalenes and thieves and alcoholics, turn around and love them, forgive them, understand them, and place them in God’s keeping where God’s love and God’s forgiveness and God’s grace can reach them. One second of God-realization will dispel any sin, any disease, or any fear that has ever existed on the face of the earth—but it must be God-realization and not just talk about God or preaching about God. God-experience must come to you, and that experience is what dispels the sins, diseases, and illusions of the world.

Our Spiritual Resources

Chapter 2 – “Begin Prayer with the Word God”

From *Conscious Union with God*

... Only through the development of the spiritual consciousness exemplified by Jesus will all nations finally be enabled to put up their swords and turn them into ploughshares.

You may wonder whether or not anyone can live up to a teaching as demanding as this, but it can be done—it can be done individually and collectively. You can begin now to

live up to the Master's teaching by forgiving your enemy and by praying for those who persecute you; and if you, as an individual, can do this, the world can.

One of the greatest laws of the Bible is the law of forgiveness, of praying for your enemies. But forgiveness does not mean looking at a human being, remembering the terrible offense he has committed against you, and then forgiving him for it. There is no virtue in that. True forgiveness is the ability to see through his human appearance to the Divinity of his being and realize that in the Divinity of his being there has never been, and is not now, error of any nature. It is as if this person were to ask you for help, and in helping him you would have to behold him as he really is, as pure spiritual being.

Conscious Union with God

Chapter 2 – “Teacher, Student and Teaching”

From *The Journey Back to the Father's House*

... From the standpoint of that Christ-mind, we are told to “judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” From the level of the human mind, if you see someone doing wrong according to your standards of wrong, you make it clear that it is wrong. But if you are seeing through the mind of the Christ, you would say, “neither do I condemn thee....Who made me a judge or a divider over you?” When you are seeing through the ordinary human mind, you wish to be avenged on those who harm you. But from the level of the mind of Christ, you say, “If you have taken my coat, you may have my vest also. If you have wronged me, I forgive you, and if you have wronged me twice, I forgive you twice, and if you have wronged

me seventy times, I forgive you seventy times and seventy times seven times.”

The Journey Back to the Father's House
Chapter 3 – “Attaining the Christ-Mind”

From *Conscious Union With God*

Suppose I accept spiritually the teaching that all that the Father has is mine, and then I envy somebody his possessions. I am then violating my own spiritual integrity. I am not injuring the person I envy; he is not affected by it at all; but I am violating my own conviction that all that the Father has is mine because I am not acting on my own conviction. I am double-minded. I am saying in one breath, “Life is one,” but at the same time I am setting up two—myself and the person I am envying, cheating, or defrauding.

In other words, spiritual integrity means living according to the Sermon on the Mount, “Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” But the reason for living the Sermon on the Mount is not for the sake of being a good human being, but because you realize that the other Self is you, and you are the other Self.

If you maintain this oneness in your consciousness continuously, living out from it, you are maintaining your spiritual integrity. If you never said a word to anyone, if you never preached a sermon on honesty, integrity, or loyalty, all those touching your consciousness would sense those qualities emanating from you because that is your state of consciousness, that is what you are.

Never indulge thoughts or acts that violate the teaching of the one Self. What about criticizing, judging, and condemning another person? When you do that, you are only doing it to yourself, and it is bound to come back to you. Do not ever believe that your own errors will not come back to you. They will. In judging or condemning anyone or anything, you are violating your own being .

Conscious Union With God

Chapter 6 – “Teaching the Message”

From *A Message for the Ages*

... The Master’s ministry was always addressed to a “you”; you must forgive seventy times seven; you must pray for your enemy; you must love your neighbor as yourself; you must seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness; you must not judge after appearances. That brings the Christ-ministry down to you and me—not to God but to you and me.

A Message for the Ages

Chapter 3 – “Now I See”

From *Consciousness Transformed*

... Therefore, when you consciously realize your relationship to God, look around you several times a day and remember that this is the truth about your neighbor. The fact that he does not know it makes no difference. You must spread the aroma of the atmosphere in which you live. You must forgive by remembering that you are not forgiving but that, through you, God is forgiving.

Consciousness Transformed

March 10, 1963 – “Relationship of Oneness, 2

From *Consciousness Transformed*

... There remains just one thing: You cannot enter into this spiritual life until you have forgiven yourself your past. You have to just close your eyes, look back on the years and say, “Yes, they were just full of insults to God and to my fellow man. They were just full of sins, but now at last I know it and I know they were wrong. It may be that I can never right the particular wrongs to the particular people involved, but at least I can recognize the nature of my sins and be done with it. I have control over this minute and even succeeding minutes, and I can close my eyes now and be at peace because I am doing no injustice to anyone. I know now that I am my neighbor and my neighbor is me; I know now that we are one, and as long as I am one with my neighbor in this way, I am loving my neighbor and thereby I am loving God supremely.”

Consciousness Transformed

March 31, 1963 – “My Consciousness”

From *The Foundation of Mysticism*

... I know for a fact that there isn't anyone in all the world who doesn't know inwardly they are a far greater person than they appear to be on the outside. I know that there isn't an individual on the face of the globe who doesn't know that their own inner standard, their own inner being, is far higher than anything they're exemplifying outwardly. I know that. I have seen it thousands of times, not only that which you are, but that which to some extent you know you are, but you don't really know all of it. And you do know in spite of many faults, in spite of many sins, this is not you.

You know who you are and what you are, and that is why you can forgive yourself; that is why I can forgive myself.

The Foundation of Mysticism

Chapter 13 – Questions and Answers –
“Revelation of Scripture – The Truth about Prayer”

From *Awakening Mystical Consciousness*

...The Master’s ministry was not merely one of healing the sick. It was equally devoted to forgiving the sinner, not after centuries of punishment in hell or in some anteroom of hell and not after centuries of suffering under karmic law, but in the very moment of his looking up. The entire ministry of the Christ was to show that in the moment of turning, in the recognition of the Christ, of spiritual Grace, we are saved.

Awakening Mystical Consciousness

Chapter 12 – “Consciousness Unfolding
as the Harmony of Our Experience”

From *The Altitude of Prayer*

...You can set yourself apart and realize: My consciousness now is the temple of God. All self-interest and self-desire are absent from this temple. I am here only as a transparency for the Spirit of God; I am here only that all in the world who are seeking light may find entrance to my consciousness and be illumined. I am here for only one purpose, that the sick reaching out for wholeness, the sinner reaching out for forgiveness, the dying reaching out for life, may find entrance into this tabernacle which I am and from which all sense of self is absent, so that the benediction which is the grace of God may touch all who enter here.

In that emptiness the world finds its entrance into your consciousness, and world-consciousness is dissolved.

The Altitude of Prayer

Chapter 9 – “Two or More Gathered Together”

From *Realization of Oneness*

... Practice, practice, practice, until you can look at the saint or the sinner and know that the saint never could be a saint any more than the sinner could be a sinner.

Realization of Oneness

Chapter 6, “Living the Principle of Impersonalization”

From *The Journey Back to the Father’s House*

... Let Me take this burden. I am in the midst of you. Drop your burden of guilt at My feet. I could forgive the woman taken in adultery; I could forgive the thief on the cross; I could forgive the boy born blind; I could forgive his adulterous parents; so I can forgive you.

I in the midst of you can forgive you, because I am here in the midst of you that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly. Only obey My commandments: forgive those who persecute you; forgive those who wrong you; forgive them seventy times seven, even as I forgive you.

Does not the Lord’s prayer show us how to pray? “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” We live the law of forgiveness as we want the law of forgiveness to operate for us. We live the law of love as we want the law of love to operate for us. Above all, let us recognize that *I, God*, is in the midst of us, and *I am here* that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly.

I am here to feed you when you are hungry; I am here to heal you if you are sick, and to forgive you if you are in sin. I am here to lead you into the kingdom of God on earth.

In the God that the Master reveals to us, there is not to be found one single reason for distrusting or fearing God, not even for a second. We love Him, for His message to us is:

Drop these burdens at My feet. Let yesterday be yesterday, and let the past be the past, and remember that in any moment that you turn to Me within you, in any moment you are forgiven. The fact that you may repeat some of these errors or sins a few more times is not of too much importance, because I will forgive seventy times seven, until there is no longer a capacity left for sin within you.

The Journey Back to the Father's House
Chapter 10 – “God Dominion: Not Man’s Domination”

From *Rising in Consciousness*

... Sometimes we feel so self-righteous when we find someone doing something we think is wrong and we say, “I can forgive them.” This is all part of the human picture and will heal nothing. True forgiveness is not sitting in judgment on a person, first finding them to be wrong and then deciding to forgive them for being wrong. True forgiveness is in closing our eyes and getting within, in the spiritual sense of things, and there getting in touch with the reality of that individual and finding that all reality is God and there never has been a sin or a mistake or anything to overcome. Even if you did correct the sins and faults of your friends or loved ones, you still would not have accomplished much in a spiritual way. When you blot out the picture of all

humanhood, the good as well as the bad, and get close to the center of being, close to God, you will find that sooner or later, when you open your eyes, those friends or relatives will no longer be the erring individuals they now appear to be.

Rising in Consciousness
Chapter 4 – “Realization”

From *Conscious Union with God*

...The higher sense of forgiveness is looking through the human being and his activity and seeing that there at the center of his being sits God, which at the moment is being misinterpreted.

Conscious Union with God
Chapter 8 – “Questions and Answers”

From *The Only Freedom*

... Well do I remember an experience when I was called upon to rise above a very disagreeable experience concerning one of the students. The hurt was deep for the moment, and it was bad medicine to have to take. In my meditation when the word came to forgive, I answered, “Oh, Father, that’s more than I can do. I just haven’t risen that high yet. I cannot be that forgiving in this case. I would like to be. Don’t think I wouldn’t but I’d be a hypocrite if I were to say I have achieved it. But I will tell you what You had better do, Father. You take over and do the forgiving for me because I don’t seem to have the ability.” And the Father did. Immediately the weight was lifted off my shoulders, and the assurance came that God’s forgiveness was right there where I was. That took all the responsibility away from me.

It is hypocritical to make absolute statements of truth as if we had already demonstrated them. It is true we must forgive seventy times seven, but that doesn't mean that we are always going to find it easy and sometimes we may even find it almost impossible. If we do find it almost impossible, we will be relieved if we turn to the Father: "I would like to forgive this person. I don't seem to be making a good job of it. You take over and do the forgiving for me." Then you will find that it is done. I would not be surprised if the Master, though, were saying, "Father, teach me to be more forgiving so that I can be forgiven more."

The Only Freedom

Chapter 11 – "Making Your Contact with God"