



# JOURNAL

## The Spirit of Truth – “This is the way!”

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**T**HE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IS ONE OF THE KEY protagonists in the most amazing love story ever told. He is the spirit of a Creator Son, poured out on the mortal inhabitants of a world belonging to his local universe at the conclusion of a bestowal mission. This “spirit friend”, this “new teacher”, will always guide us in the ways of righteousness; when we are confused, doubting, or fearful, he will point us in the right direction, saying: “This is the way!”

These are the words of a Mighty Messenger stationed temporarily on Urantia:

**...must we do something to access it?**  
*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.”* [Paper 34:7.8, page 383:2]

As mere mortals on this planet, haven’t we all experienced these human frailties? So then what does it mean when it says the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying “This is the way”? How do we personally experience that guidance? Is it something that we experience automatically, or must we do something to access it? These are some of the questions I would like to consider in this article. But firstly, let us briefly explore the relationship between the Spirit of Truth and the other two spirit endowments that together bring about the reality of our son-ship with God.



Showing the way, iphoto

### Our Threefold Spiritual Endowment

Our first contact with spirit is via the ministries of the seven adjutant mind spirits, particularly adjutants six and seven:

*Mortal man first experiences the ministry of the Spirit in conjunction with mind when the purely animal mind of evolutionary creatures develops reception capacity for the adjutants of worship and of wisdom. This ministry of the sixth and seventh adjutants indicates mind evolution crossing the threshold of spiritual ministry. And immediately are such minds of worship- and wisdom-function included in the spiritual circuits of the Divine Minister.* [Paper 34:5.3, page 379:3]

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Greetings fellow *Journal* readers,

**I**N THIS THIRD EDITION of the *Journal* for 2015 our contributors from the lands ‘Down Under’ will bring us six marvelously engaging excursions to the transcendental realms of truth, which are currently hidden in the tumultuous world of the 21st century. The authors bid you to embark upon the multiple itineraries of inspiration they have gathered that might take you there.

Julian McGarry has furnished us with the quintessential starting point in “**The Spirit of Truth—“This is the way!”**” which was originally presented in Canberra in 2013. Julian first reviews the “*critical role of the Spirit of Truth with respect to the ministries of the Holy Spirit and the Thought Adjusters,*” and then gives us a “*micro’ view—our personal experience of the Spirit of Truth—his function and manifestation in our daily lives. I would like to transport you in your mind to the upper room where Jesus and his apostles were gathered to celebrate his final Passover before he returned to the right hand of his Father.*” Julian escorts us first through the experience of the Apostles and shows us how today “*the Spirit of Truth offers us more! We can enjoy daily, moment by moment enhanced fellowship with Michael of Nebadon!*”

Our second contributor Nigel Nunn grants us an informative rest stop on our expedition and reveals another panoramic view to absorb in his “**Making Truth Accessible.**” He commences the access by asking “*when we choose to believe that something is true, what’s really going on?*” He introduces us to the “*three cosmic intuitions*” the “*Spirit of Fact*” of the Divine Minister of Salvington ... *who makes it possible for us to know, to discriminate fact from figment.*” Then in taking a clue from this comment in *The Urantia Book*, “**Faith**

**most willingly carries reason along as far as reason can go and then goes on with wisdom to the full philosophic limit; and then it dares to launch out upon the limitless and never-ending universe journey in the sole company of TRUTH.**”

[Paper 103:9.7, page 1141.5] Nigel leaves us with this premise “*it’s not faith, but the person wielding faith, that chooses to dare to launch. This kind of “TRUTH” lives beyond that “full philosophic limit.”*”

In our third trek along the trails of truth, Marion Steward gives us a delightful and insightful reality check with her discovery of the “**Surprises from the Undercover Boss.**” Marion familiarizes us with the consummate undercover boss whom she discovered in *The Urantia Book*; “*What is the purpose of the bestowal missions? They provide the Creator sons the opportunity to acquire the viewpoint of [their] own creatures by actual experience in the environment of their existence and as these very creatures themselves, and in so doing, gain the “... patience born of experiential creature existence.”* [Paper 119:0.6, page1309:0] She starts with “*a brief survey of some fascinating facts, which we had either no clue about before the book, or had incorrect ideas.*” Marion intelligently deduces “*some of what I consider to be compelling concepts, beginning with one of my personal favorites, Women and Men are equal in the universe!*” I must say Marion it is one of my favorites as well. All of the revelations she discovered in this essay I discovered too and revisiting them is just as thrilling and comforting as the first time! Our Father truly knows our tribulations and triumphs, as he is and was one of us.

Our fourth tour of truth discovery continues with “**Truth and Sonship**” from our own Verner Verass. He had me cheering from the back of the bus when he revealed “*We have the capacity for truth recognition built into us... trust it as a child. In this complex time*

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*of confusion it is the one dependable confirmation of what is really true.*”

Vern also emphasizes many truisms within *The Urantia Book* regarding our Sonship and the most important one being that “*we know knowledge is only possessed by sharing...cooperation. ... Knowledge is possessed only by sharing; it is safeguarded by wisdom and socialized by love.*” [Paper 48:7.28, page 557:12] emphasis added

The final stop on our adventure in truth is also from Vern “**The Door is Open Let All Those Who Will, Come.**” In this short and to be continued article we realize that our Father’s truths are available and open to all who seek them. Vern faithfully examines the “*five specific instances of the phrase “all who will” in The Urantia Book, yet it contains hundreds of other references to the fact we are drawn to embark on this glorious ascension career to Paradise in response to the loving call to perfection.*” .... “*These are everlastingly true words of salvation.....a promise of life in abundance for*”—“*whosoever will.*”

Truth is not a word or explanation per se—but an extension of Deity that each man must weigh. Then acceptance exerted oppresses fear and the boundaries of infinity become increasingly near. As is all of nature, all of man, all possibility, all time in one span...

Happy and enlightened reading!!

Suzanne Kelly

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*The Spirit of Truth – “This is the way!” cont. from page 1*

This is what separates us from other animals and makes us truly human—our capacity for worship and wisdom! Something ‘spiritual’ is happening. We are immediately connected to the spiritual circuits of the Divine Minister; we are within the influence of the Holy Spirit and this is independent of our reception of the spirit of the Father and the spirit of the Son.

*All of man’s truly religious reactions are sponsored by the early ministry of the adjutant of worship and are censored by the adjutant of wisdom. Man’s first supermind endowment is that of personality encirclement in the Holy Spirit of the Universe Creative Spirit; and long before either the bestowals of the divine Sons or the universal bestowal of the Adjusters, this influence functions to enlarge man’s viewpoint of ethics, religion, and spirituality.* [Paper 103:0.1, page 1129:1]

The Holy Spirit imbues our minds with the capacity for conscious or unconscious interaction with the spirit of the Universal Father, our Thought Adjuster.

*When mind is thus endowed with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it possesses the capacity for (consciously or unconsciously) choosing the spiritual presence of the Universal Father--the Thought Adjuster.* [Paper 34:5.4, page 379:4]

Prior to the outpouring of the Spirit of Truth by a bestowal son, not all normal-minded mortals were indwelt by a Thought Adjuster:

*Before the times of the pouring out of the Spirit of Truth upon the inhabitants of an evolutionary world, the Adjusters’ bestowal appears to be determined by many spirit influences and personality attitudes. We do not fully comprehend the laws governing such bestowals; we do not understand just what determines the release of the Adjusters who have volunteered to indwell such evolving minds.* [Paper 108:2.5, page 1187:4]

However, with the arrival of the Spirit of Truth, an amazing transformation takes place:

*But it is not until a bestowal Son has liberated the Spirit of Truth for planetary ministry to all mortals that all normal minds are automatically prepared for the reception of the Thought Adjusters. The Spirit of Truth works as one with the presence of the spirit of the Divine Minister. This dual spirit liaison hovers over the worlds, seeking to teach truth and to spiritually enlighten the minds of men, to inspire the souls of the creatures of the ascending races, and to lead the peoples dwelling on the evolutionary planets ever towards their Paradise goal of divine destiny.* [Paper 34:5.4, page 379:4]

*Subsequent to the bestowals of the Paradise Sons the liberated Spirit of Truth makes mighty contributions to the enlargement of the human capacity to perceive religious truths.* [Paper 103:0.1, page 1129:1]

Whereas the Holy Spirit and the Thought Adjusters are able to minister to us irrespective of whether we consciously cooperate with them or not, the Spirit of

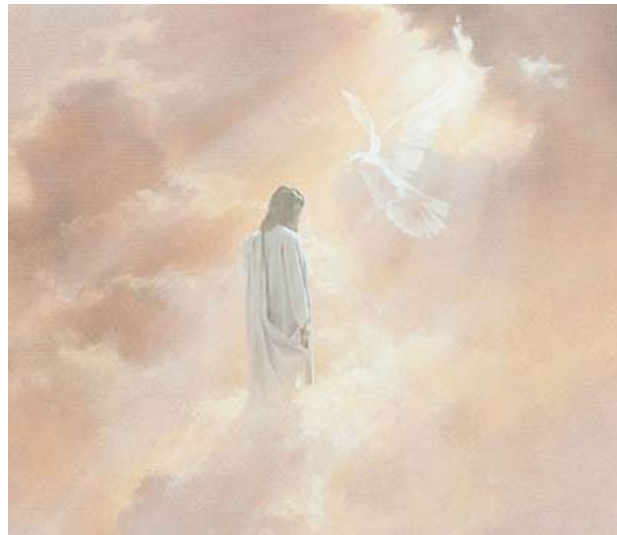
Truth’s ability to enlarge our capacity to perceive religious truths is limited by our personal reception of the mission of the bestowal Son.

*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.* [Paper 34:5.5, page 379:5]

**...the Spirit of Truth’s ability to enlarge our capacity to perceive religious truths is limited by our personal reception of the mission of the bestowal Son.**

Notwithstanding the differential function of each of these divine spirits, this three-fold spirit endowment works in perfect harmony to enable mortals to realize their full potential as sons of the Universal Father.

*The presence of the Holy Spirit of the Universe Daughter of the Infinite Spirit, of the Spirit of Truth of the Universe Son of the Eternal Son, and of the Adjuster-spirit of the Paradise Father in or with an evolutionary mortal, denotes symmetry of spiritual endowment and ministry and qualifies such a mortal consciously to realize the faith-fact of sonship with God.* [Paper 34:5.7, page 380:1]



Jesus sends the comforter, illustration

### Our Personal Experience of The Spirit of Truth

Now that we have reviewed the critical role of the Spirit of Truth with respect to the ministries of the Holy Spirit and the Thought Adjusters, I now want to focus on the ‘micro’ view—our personal experience of the Spirit of Truth—his function and manifestation in our daily lives. I would like to transport you in your mind to the upper room where Jesus and his apostles were gathered to celebrate his final Passover before he returned to the right hand of his Father.

To assist you in re-living this momentous and solemn occasion, I invite you to imagine what it would have been like being one of the apostles....living with Jesus, day after day, night after night for the duration of his public



ministry. Picture yourself living shoulder to shoulder with this Creator Son, this extraordinarily balanced and beautiful God-man, eating with him, walking with him, and listening to those memorable campfire talks....

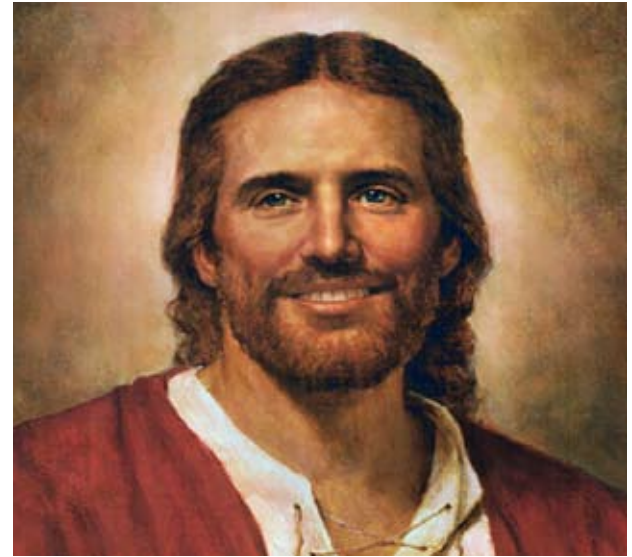
Imagine personally witnessing his kindness, his strength of character, his sincerity, his reasonableness and approachableness....his poise, his enthusiasm, his unified personality, his love and compassion for people, his cheerfulness, his generosity, his flawless trust in his Father, his tenderness towards the down-hearted and down-trodden, his over-riding goodness, his gentleness....We are told that Jesus often smiled! The words “*smile*”, “*smiles*”, “*smiled*”, “*smiling*”, and “*smilingly*” occur a total of 27 times in *The Urantia Book*. On nearly every occasion they refer to Jesus....his smile was said to be “*engaging*” and “*reassuring*” and his eye “*was kind but searching*.” [Paper 127:1.2, page 1395:6]

**Picture yourself living shoulder to shoulder with this Creator Son, this extraordinarily balanced and beautiful God-man, eating with him, walking with him, and listening to those memorable campfire talks....**

Imagine how you would grow to love him! Imagine how attached you would become towards him! Now imagine how much Jesus would grow to love you! Jesus really loved people!

Put yourself in the teenage shoes of John Mark! This boy hungered to be with Jesus alone; he wouldn't let go of the food basket until Jesus allowed him to accompany the Master into the hills for a day. Imagine the privilege, the unforgettable ecstasy of being alone with God in the hills for a whole day!!! How the apostles secretly envied him!

*The apostles spent most of this day walking about on Mount Olivet and visiting with the disciples who were encamped with them, but early in the afternoon they became very desirous of seeing Jesus return. As the day wore on, they grew increasingly anxious about his safety; they felt inexpressibly lonely without him. There was much debating throughout the day as to whether the Master should have been allowed to go off by himself in the hills, accompanied only by an errand boy. Though no man openly so expressed his thoughts, there was not one of them, save Judas Iscariot, who did not wish himself in John Mark's place.* [Paper 177:3.1, page 1923:2]



Jesus smiles and says “be of good cheer,” illustration

In less than a day, the apostles started feeling “inexpressibly lonely without him.” They had grown to love this God-man....wouldn't you? They had also become very dependent on him....and he knew this! Jesus became increasingly concerned about how they would cope following his arrest and final departure from Urantia. He knew they were vulnerable! He loved them so much!

Now picture the scene only hours before his betrayal and arrest. Imagine the enormous pressure Jesus was under. He was about to be taken away from them, unceremoniously, like a common criminal. How could they possibly manage without him? The answer to this question is just as relevant to us, living almost 2000 years after these events. I would like to take up the story in Paper 180, “The Farewell Discourse”. Jesus and the apostles had just celebrated the Passover together in an upper room...

*The experience of parting with the apostles was a great strain on the human heart of Jesus; this sorrow of love bore down on him and made it more difficult to face such a death as he well knew awaited him. He realized how weak and how ignorant his apostles were, and he dreaded to leave them.* [Paper 182:3.9, page 1969:4]

I invite you to follow closely Jesus' words at this critical time in Urantia's history!

### The Spirit of Truth: Comforter and Teacher of Truth

*Jesus continued to teach, saying: “When I have gone to the Father, and after he has fully accepted the work I have done for you on earth, and after I have received the final sovereignty of my own domain, I shall say to my Father: Having left my children alone on earth, it is in accordance with my promise to send them another teacher. And when the Father shall approve, I will pour out the Spirit of Truth upon all flesh. Already is my Father's spirit in your hearts, and when this day shall come, you will also have me with you even as you now have the Father. This new gift is the spirit of living truth. The unbelievers will not at first listen to the teachings of this spirit, but the sons of light will all receive him gladly and with a whole heart. And you shall know this spirit when he comes even as you have known me, and you will receive this*

John Mark and Jesus, painting by Del Parson

*gift in your hearts, and he will abide with you.* [Paper 180:4.1, page 1948:2]

In these few words, Jesus promised to send them “another teacher”, “the Spirit of Truth”, whom he would pour out “upon all flesh”. This spirit would abide in their hearts even as they already had the Father’s spirit (their Thought Adjusters) in their hearts. Jesus makes reference to the fundamentals of new religion in these key phrases: “living truth” and “with a whole heart”.

*You thus perceive that I am not going to leave you without help and guidance. I will not leave you desolate. Today I can be with you only in person. In the times to come I will be with you and all other men who desire my presence, wherever you may be, and with each of you at the same time. Do you not discern that it is better for me to go away; that I leave you in the flesh so that I may the better and the more fully be with you in the spirit?* [Paper 180:4.1, page 1948:2]

Jesus points to the advantage of being “with you in the spirit” as opposed to being “with you only in person”: he can be with them wherever they are and with each of them at the same time.

*“In just a few hours the world will see me no more; but you will continue to know me in your hearts even until I send you this new teacher, the Spirit of Truth. As I have lived with you in person, then shall I live in you; I shall be one with your personal experience in the spirit kingdom. And when this has come to pass, you shall surely know that I am in the Father, and that, while your life is hid with the Father in me, I am also in you. I have loved the Father and have kept his word; you have loved me, and you will keep my word. As my Father has given me of his spirit, so will I give you of my spirit.* [Paper 180:4.2, page 1948:3]

What would the apostles have made of such an extraordinary statement, “then shall I live in you”, not just “with you”? And then Jesus reassures them with these comforting words: “your life is hid with the Father in me”. They are in him and he is in them! These are the fruits that the Father has waited an eternity for...His children, safely ensconced within the protective embrace of this Master Son.

*And this Spirit of Truth which I will bestow upon you shall guide and comfort you and shall eventually lead you into all truth.* [Paper 180:4.2, page 1948:3]

Guidance, comfort, and being led into all truth... these are the promised gifts of this spirit friend.

*“I am telling you these things while I am still with you that you may be the better prepared to endure those trials which are even now right upon us. And when this new day comes, you will be indwelt by the Son as well as by the Father. And these gifts of heaven will ever work the one with the other even as the Father and I have wrought on earth and before your very eyes as one person, the Son of Man. And this spirit friend will bring to your remembrance everything I have taught you.”* [Paper 180:4.3, page 1948:4]

It is late in the evening and the apostles are very tired. Would they grasp the import of Jesus’ words: “you will be



Jesus reassures the apostles; illustration

indwelt by the Son as well as by the Father. And these gifts of heaven will ever work the one with the other....”

*As the Master paused for a moment, Judas Alpheus made bold to ask one of the few questions which either he or his brother ever addressed to Jesus in public. Said Judas: “Master, you have always lived among us as a friend; how shall we know you when you no longer manifest yourself to us save by this spirit? If the world sees you not, how shall we be certain about you? How will you show yourself to us?”* [Paper 180:4.4, page 1948:5]

Judas Alpheus, unaccustomed to asking questions and such a great admirer of Jesus’ humility asked the question that all the others probably wanted to ask! And how did his Master respond?

*Jesus looked down upon them all, smiled, and said: “My little children, I am going away, going back to my Father. In a little while you will not see me as you do here, as flesh and blood. In a very short time I am going to send you my spirit, just like me except for this material body.* [Paper 180:4.5, page 1949:1]

**Jesus makes reference to the fundamentals of new religion in these key phrases: “living truth” and “with a whole heart.”**

Notwithstanding the gravity and solemnity of this occasion, Jesus looked down upon them all....and smiled! He understood their fears and perplexity and so he spoke to them tenderly...such a powerful and touching moment! The Spirit of Truth is the spirit of Jesus. He is everything that Jesus is except for his material body.

*This new teacher is the Spirit of Truth who will live with each one of you, in your hearts, and so will all the children of light be made one and be drawn toward one another. And in this very manner will my Father and I be able to live in the souls of each one of you and also in the hearts of all other men who love us and make that love real in their experiences by loving one another, even as I am now loving you.”* [Paper 180:4.5, page 1949:1]



Jesus' final words unequivocally inform us that the Father and the Son live in the souls and in the hearts of every believer...those that love one another, even as Jesus loves them.

### The Spirit of Truth: What is Truth?

The Midwayer who is relating this stirring account of Jesus' last hours of material life with his apostles, now addresses the question of what the Master meant by the word "truth".

*The new helper which Jesus promised to send into the hearts of believers, to pour out upon all flesh, is the Spirit of Truth. This divine endowment is not the letter or law of truth, neither is it to function as the form or expression of truth. The new teacher is the conviction of truth, the consciousness and assurance of true meanings on real spirit levels. And this new teacher is the spirit of living and growing truth, expanding, unfolding, and adaptive truth.* [Paper 180:5.1, page 1949:3]

**Truth can only be realized on the high spiritual levels of conscious communion with God.**

The Spirit of Truth is not a book, a letter, a creed, a law, or a dogma of truth; it is the "conviction of truth".

Divine truth is a spirit-discerned and living reality. Truth exists only on high spiritual levels of the realization of divinity and the consciousness of communion with God. You can know the truth, and you can live the truth; you can experience the growth of truth in the soul and enjoy the liberty of its enlightenment in the mind, but you cannot imprison truth in formulas, codes, creeds, or intellectual patterns of human conduct.

Truth can only be realized on the high spiritual levels of conscious communion with God. It is something that you can know and live but it cannot be imprisoned in a formula or a creed....it is not an intellectual knowing!

*When you undertake the human formulation of divine truth, it speedily dies. The post-mortem salvage of imprisoned truth, even at best, can eventuate only in the realization of a peculiar form of intellectualized glorified wisdom. Static truth is dead truth, and only dead truth can be held as a theory. Living truth is dynamic and can enjoy only an experiential existence in the human mind.* [Paper 180:5.1, page 1949:3]

Living truth is powerful and always moving; it is a spiritual experience, not just intellectualised wisdom. While Jesus was sojourning in Rome, he said something akin to this to the Greek Jew Nabon, a high priest of the Mithraic religion.

*Truth cannot be defined with words, only by living. Truth is always more than knowledge. Knowledge pertains to things observed, but truth transcends such purely material levels in that it consorts with wisdom and embraces such imponderables as human experience, even spiritual and living realities. Knowledge originates in science; wisdom, in true philosophy; truth, in the religious experience of spiritual living. Knowledge deals with facts; wisdom, with relationships; truth, with reality values.* [Paper 132:3.2, page 1459:2]

The Revelator continues his exposition of what constitutes truth:

*Intelligence grows out of a material existence which is illuminated by the presence of the cosmic mind. Wisdom comprises the consciousness of knowledge elevated to new levels of meaning and activated by the presence of the universe endowment of the adjutant of wisdom. Truth is a spiritual reality value experienced only by spirit-endowed beings who function upon supermaterial levels of universe consciousness, and who, after the realization of truth, permit its spirit of activation to live and reign within their souls.*

[Paper 180:5.3, page 1949:5]

There appear to be three conditions for the realization of truth:

- 1) it can only be experienced by spirit-endowed beings,
- 2) who function upon supermaterial levels of universe consciousness, and
- 3) who after the realization of truth, permit its spirit of activation to live and reign within their souls.

*The true child of universe insight looks for the living Spirit of Truth in every wise saying. The God-knowing individual is constantly elevating wisdom to the living-truth levels of divine attainment; the spiritually unprogressive soul is all the while dragging the living truth down to the dead levels of wisdom and to the domain of mere exalted knowledge.* [Paper 180:5.4, page 1949:6]

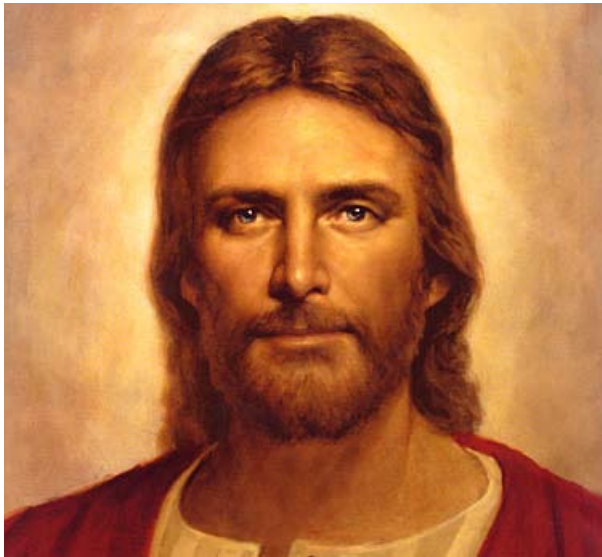
At this point, the Revelator uses the "Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) to illustrate the difference between 'truth' and mere ethical conduct, social mores, or lofty principles of higher living. In conclusion, he states:

*But the highest realization and the truest interpretation of the golden rule consists in the consciousness of the spirit of the truth of the enduring and living reality of such a divine declaration. The true cosmic meaning of this rule of universal relationship is revealed only in its spiritual realization, in the interpretation of the law of conduct by the spirit of the Son to the spirit of the Father that indwells the soul of mortal man. And when such spirit-led mortals realize the true meaning of this golden rule, they are filled to overflowing with the assurance of citizenship in a friendly universe, and their ideals of spirit reality are satisfied only when they love their fellows as Jesus loved us all, and that is the reality of the realization of the love of God.* [Paper 180:5.8, page 1950:3]

As we come to fully comprehend the Urantia Book's definition of truth, we are more able to grasp why the Spirit of Truth became the progenitor of the new religion on that day of Pentecost nearly 2000 years ago.

### The Spirit Of Truth And The New Religion

*And all this clearly indicates the difference between the old religion and the new. The old religion taught self-sacrifice; the new religion teaches only self-forgetfulness, enhanced self-realization in conjoined social service and universe*



Jesus cares for you, illustration

## The Spirit Of Truth: Fellowship With Michael

Earlier in this article I asked you to imagine being one of Jesus’ apostles—daily rubbing shoulders with this Son of God, this Creator Son, this God-man for almost four years. We then saw how Jesus promised that we mortals living on Urantia today, could enjoy that same experience due to the pouring out of the Spirit of Truth on all flesh.

*In the times to come I will be with you and all other men who desire my presence, wherever you may be, and with each of you at the same time. Do you not discern that it is better for me to go away; that I leave you in the flesh so that I may the better and the more fully be with you in the spirit?* [Paper 180:4.1, page 1948:2]

By his willingness to surrender his material body and depart from this planet, Jesus was able to promise us something superior to what the apostles experienced in the days of his flesh: to “more fully be with you in the spirit”. And this is how we know that we have received the Spirit of Truth:

**....the way of the Spirit of Truth: self-forgetfulness, enhanced self-realization in conjoined social service and universe comprehension...**

*Do not make the mistake of expecting to become strongly intellectually conscious of the outpoured Spirit of Truth. The spirit never creates a consciousness of himself, only a consciousness of Michael, the Son. From the beginning Jesus taught that the spirit would not speak of himself. The proof, therefore, of your fellowship with the Spirit of Truth is not to be found in your consciousness of this spirit but rather in your experience of enhanced fellowship with Michael.* [Paper 194:2.4, page 2061:2]

Enhanced fellowship with Michael, the sovereign of our local Universe ....what a stupendous privilege and pleasure! But remember Jesus words about the sons of light **...the sons of light will all receive him gladly and with a whole heart. And you shall know this spirit when he comes even as you have known me, and you will receive this gift in your hearts, and he will abide with you.** [Paper 180:4.1, page 1948:2]

The quality of our personal experience of Michael is predicated on the quality of our heart: are we open to him and are we whole-hearted in our desire to share our lives with him?

*Slowly the apostles and many of the disciples were learning the meaning of Jesus’ early declaration: “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.”* [Paper 166:3.7, page 1829:4]

Let us give heartfelt thanks to our Father for the inestimable gift of the Spirit of Truth! ■

*comprehension. The old religion was motivated by fear-consciousness; the new gospel of the kingdom is dominated by truth-conviction, the spirit of eternal and universal truth.* [Paper 180:5.12, page 1951:1]

*“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.”* [Paper 143:2.4, page 1609:5]

This is the way....spiritual transformation! This is how we gain the strength and power in our soul to perform the perfect will of God. The old religion taught us that to do God’s will, we have to sacrifice ourselves, we have to fear God, we have to suppress our primitive instincts and urges, and we must obey and conform to God’s laws...with what result? We are repeatedly disappointed and frustrated with our lacklustre performance! Or we become self-righteous and proud! Jesus showed us the new way....the way of the Spirit of Truth: self-forgetfulness, enhanced self-realization in conjoined social service and universe comprehension, truth conviction, and the constant spiritual renewing of our minds. Have we grasped this liberating message of the new religion or are we still struggling to meet the demands of the old?

*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. Thus by your faith and the spirit’s transformation, you become in reality the temples of God, and his spirit actually dwells within you. If, then, the spirit dwells within you, you are no longer bondslaves of the flesh but free and liberated sons of the spirit. The new law of the spirit endows you with the liberty of self-mastery in place of the old law of the fear of self-bondage and the slavery of self-denial.* [Paper 143:2.4, page 1609:5]

But the Spirit of Truth offers us more! We can enjoy daily, moment by moment enhanced fellowship with Michael of Nebadon!

# Making truth accessible

NIGEL NUNN  
Australia

The *Arena* March, 2014

*...what is it about our minds that enables such response?*

**W**HAT IS IT THAT MAKES SOMETHING feel true? In our “*mind arena of choice*,” when we choose to believe that something is true, what’s really going on?

Let’s discount the gullible (who fall for whatever they’re told) and think instead about the best of our scientists and philosophers, the most inspiring of our poets and religionists. In their private inner world, where they can safely admit that their perception of reality is limited and subjective, what makes it possible for them to commit to a conclusion that something is “real”? And the other side of that coin: how is it possible for equally sincere and sophisticated souls to reach such distinctly different conclusions about what the real thing is?

Throughout history, this real thing has been called (the equivalent of) truth. Our groups and tribes are almost defined by what those in the group believe about truth. But things get slippery when we try to describe our *experience* of truth. For scientists, truth is somehow tied up with facts. For philosophers, truth is something woven into the frames in which we think. For others, it’s those “feelings too deep for words.” Sadly, each of these groups tend to think that only their view, their own experience of truth, is... well, true. So we find mystics stuck on their islands of illumination, and materialists dismissing anything they can’t measure.

What causes this great divide between materialist and religionist? Why do the satisfactions that quench the thirst of one leave the other parched? What could possibly explain such specialization and polarization, yet allow both camps to declare, with equal conviction, that their business is “getting to the truth”, and that they “*love what they do*”? Assuming such motivation and feelings of validity are felt in the mind, we have to wonder: what is it about our minds that enables such response? What makes possible, and so powerful, this intuitive validation? Among psychologists, discussion about such things has



Mind arena of choice, illustration.

grown stale. But this fifth epochal revelation stirs the pot, revealing some surprising things about our human minds:

*[...] In the mortal experience the human intellect resides in the rhythmic pulsations of the adjutant mind-spirits and effects its decisions within the arena produced by encirclement within this ministry. [...]* [Paper 117:5.7, page1286:5]

This is new. This is something other than the biochemistry of neurons, and something more than chakras spinning. Human mind as an arena, designed and sustained? Ok, by what?

*The seven adjutant mind-spirits always accompany the Life Carriers to a new planet, but they should not be regarded as entities; they are more like circuits. The spirits of the seven universe adjutants do not function as personalities apart from the universe presence of the Divine Minister; they are in fact a level of consciousness of the Divine Minister and are always subordinate to the action and presence of their creative mother.* [Paper 36:5.4, page 402:1]

If this is true, then a whole lot of territory has just been opened up for psychologists to explore. But wait, there’s more. This adjutant-induced arena is intended simply to help us make a start, like training wheels on a child’s bike. Once we’ve found our balance, as we progress through “psychic circles” of personality realization, we are weaned quickly onto more substantial stuff. But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. To get a clearer picture of what’s going on, let’s take a look behind the scenes, and remind ourselves how our “mind arena of choice” was made.

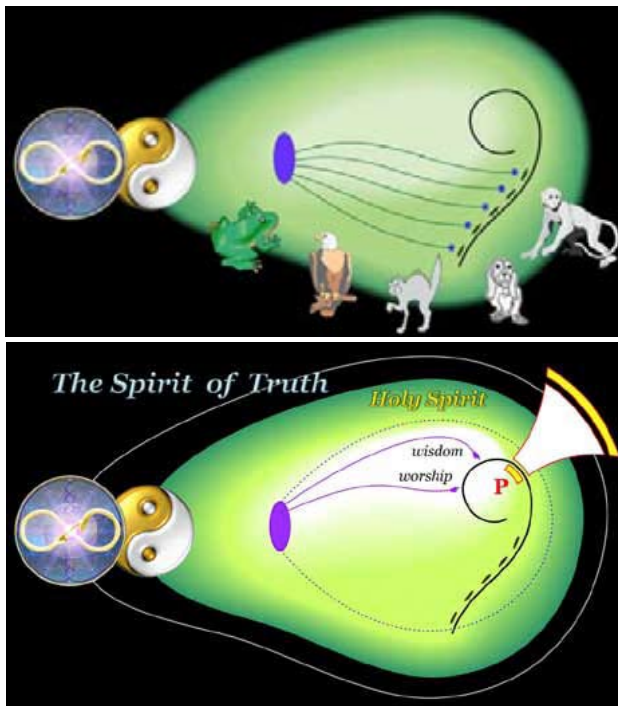
For us, the story begins about 200 billion years ago [Paper 57:3.10, page 654:3]. Michael and his Beloved, the Divine Minister, had been enjoying their own personal family affair for about 100 billion years, age upon age when it was just these two Paradise pioneers together



with their family of splendid sons and angelic daughters. 100 billion years of orderly progress and organization, free of those complications sure to arise once humans are involved. But then one day, Michael announced to his realm, to his beautiful family, that the time had come for him “to be about his father’s work”:

*And then, when such a universe has been so completely organized and so repletely manned, does the Creator Son enter into the Father’s proposal to create mortal man in their divine image.* [Paper 32:2.8, page 359:5]

“Let us make mortal man...” Easier said than done. Sure, native science can follow how evolution might turn salty fluids into living tissue, but how to tickle up emotion in biochemistry? How to turn emotion into choice, and then heroic deeds? To get this process started, the Divine Minister broadcasts throughout Nebadon “a level of her consciousness” as a set of circuits, the adjutant mind spirits. These serve as targets for each team of Life Carriers, whose challenge is to evolve animals that can respond—biochemically and psychologically—to this adjutant urge.



mind in Nebadon. This is the coal-face, the cutting edge, where humanity begins to be levered beyond its animal ancestry.

What’s missing from this picture? If this were the whole story, then a sceptical materialist would be right to ask: “So what’s different from the Richard Dawkins view? A body built by evolution, animated by a standard set of urges, warmed by a cluster of imaginary friends...?” If this adjutant animation is merely emulating mind to help us make a start, then there’s a puzzle: what is mind, and how does it fit in?

Enter a timely revelation. As humans, much of our thinking has to be backwards, from effect to cause. We use the facts we can measure to induce theories to explain those facts. But measuring material facts won’t help us discover non-material causes. Fortunately, those very non-material causes, those agents involved in creating human mind, are well equipped to explain how it works:

**...once we learn to use wisdom to manage the mix, this system of “differential urges” becomes an integrated ministry, a first interface into the source of mind in Nebadon.**

**Human consciousness rests gently upon the electrochemical mechanism below and delicately touches the spirit-morontia energy system above.** [Paper 111:1.5, page 216:6]

The adjutant mind circuits, a “level of consciousness of the Divine Minister”, inducing an arena for animal mind.

As *The Urantia Book* reveals, that animal which can respond to all seven of these rhythmically pulsating circuits is called “human”.

The game-changers: wisdom and worship. Upon these potentials for wisdom and worship, fostered by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth can act. And then, with our “mind arena of choice” all set up and our personality bestowed, an Adjuster arrives to begin the great adventure-romance: of weaving—for us—a soul.

Step 1 in the slow motion personalization of an Adjuster by the human technique.

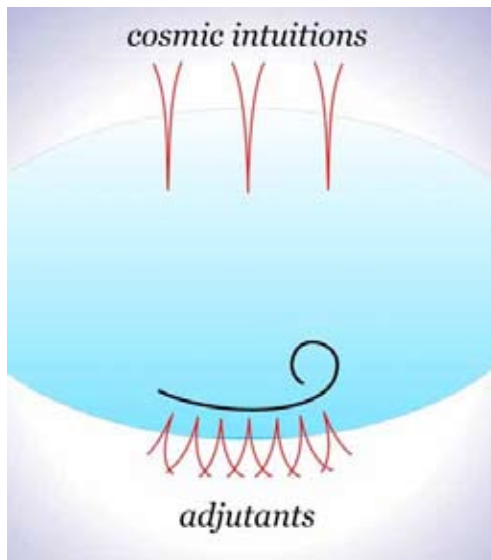
Not only does our “mind arena of choice” react to mind-like urges from below, it can respond to another system, impinging from above. This is something we’d never work out for ourselves, so the fifth epochal revelators were free to sketch some details. From Paper 16 section 6, *The Cosmic Mind*:

**There exists in all personality associations of the cosmic mind a quality which might be denominated the “reality response.” It is this universal cosmic endowment of will creatures which saves them from becoming helpless victims of the implied a priori**

**assumptions of science, philosophy, and religion. This reality sensitivity of the cosmic mind responds to certain phases of reality just as energy-material responds to gravity. It would be still more correct to say that these supermaterial realities so respond to the mind of the cosmos.** [Paper 16:6.4, page191:7]

But the plot thickens. This system of adjutants is not so much a system of mind, but a system that serves like mind; a technique for animating our biochemistry. This is the domain of feelings and urges and pre-programmed subjective response. It’s here that understanding first flickers as superstition, where courage and loyalty take root as tribalism, where zeal appears as our first unlovely response to worship. But once we learn to use wisdom to manage the mix, this system of “differential urges” [Paper 36:5.2, page 401:6], [Paper 36:5.11, page 402:8] becomes an integrated ministry, a first interface into the source of

As free-will persons, apparently part of the deal is access to a more cosmic mind. As the revelators explain, for us pre-fusion humans, this means a first taste of three “cosmic intuitions”:



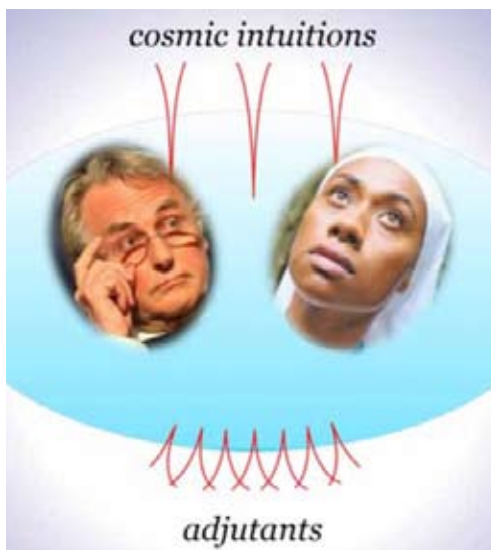
The three cosmic intuitions:

*"These scientific, moral, and spiritual insights, these cosmic responses, are innate in the cosmic mind, which endows all will creatures. The experience of living never fails to develop these three cosmic intuitions; they are constitutive in the self-consciousness of reflective thinking.*

*But it is sad to record that so few persons on Urantia take delight in cultivating these qualities of courageous and independent cosmic thinking.*  
[Paper 16:6.9, page 192.5]

Ok, this too is new. What's even more surprising is how these intuitions, these "reality responses", are made accessible to us. As local source and center of the *"Nebadon variant of the Orvonton type of cosmic mind"* [Paper 9:4.3, page 102:3], our local universe mother, the Divine Minister of Salvington, complements Michael's Spirit of Truth by serving as *"Spirit of the Meaning of Facts"*; as source of these three intuitions, she enables us to recognize (1) the facts of causality, (2) the facts of relative right and wrong, and (3) the facts of spirit values, but also to sense the meaning of all these facts [see Paper 16:6.5, page 192:1]. As one level of her consciousness (the adjutants) fosters in us a capacity to *believe*, in her capacity as Spirit of Fact, she makes it possible for us to *know*, to discriminate fact from figment.

***The cosmic-mind-endowed, Adjuster-indwelt, personal creature possesses innate recognition-realization of energy reality, mind reality, and spirit reality. The will creature is thus equipped to discern the fact, the law, and the love of God. [...]*** [Paper 16:9.1, page195:7]



Think how human *"specialists"* become the way they are: while growing up, the strength of some intuitive recognition stirs a deep response, and they know their life's calling. Thus a scientist or mystic is born, firmly attached to the first **intuition of validity** they find (not realizing there are others equally as sweet from which to suck).

*These three basic factors in reflective thinking may be unified and co-ordinated in personality development, or they may become disproportionate and virtually unrelated in their respective functions. [...]* [Paper 16:6.10, page192:6]

But what if we fail to discern all three? What if we get hung up on the love of God, and remain blissfully ignorant of his fact (causation) or his law (duty)? What if we take delight in cultivating our first cosmic intuition, revelling in the beauty of nature and the harmonies of mathematics, while completely failing to recognize the source of such beauty and harmony?

***"[...] Matter-energy is recognized by the mathematical logic of the senses; mind-reason intuitively knows its moral duty; spirit-faith (worship) is the religion of the reality of spiritual experience. These three basic factors in reflective thinking may be unified and co-ordinated in personality development, or they may become***

***disproportionate and virtually unrelated in their respective functions. But when they become unified, [...]"***

[Paper 16:6.10, page 192:6]

*"...disproportionate and virtually unrelated..."* This reminds me of how baby kangaroos begin: as near helpless embryos, they crawl from the birth canal into their mother's pouch, then fiercely attach to the first teat they find. Not unlike us? As humans, we're equally embryonic, and our shift into our soul is not unlike that climb from birth canal to pouch. So what are the teats to which we so fiercely attach? An intuition about what's real?

Imagine someone who ***"takes delight in cultivating"*** their 3rd cosmic intuition, utterly satisfied by the teat they've found (***"the reverential and worshipful form of the cosmic discrimination"***) [Paper 16:6.8, page192:4], yet remaining ignorant of fact and law. Or picture Richard Dawkins, sucking on the teat of ***"the mathematical form of the cosmic discrimination"*** [Paper 16:6.6, page192:2], taking delight in cultivating his 1st cosmic intuition, fiercely determined to believe he's found all there is to find.

Clearly, such one-eyed specialisation is just an imbalance and should not be hard to fix. But looking at the bigger picture, once we accept that such "reality response" is fostered by the Divine Minister, the next question is why? Why is it important that we be given access to, and learn to wield, the three cosmic discriminations?

***Let us make mortal man in our own image.***

[Paper 6:5.7, page 78:3], [Paper 10:3.1, page 110:7]

As *The Urantia Book* explains, this "making" of us requires **Adjusters** and **souls**. The making of souls requires choice. And the making of choice requires? A mind in which to choose. From paper 111:

*Though the work of Adjusters is spiritual in nature, they must, perform, do all their work upon an intellectual foundation. Mind is the human soil from which the spirit Monitor must evolve the morontia soul...* [Paper 111:1.1, page 1216:2]

*[...]. Concerning insight, the recognition of moral values and the discernment of spiritual meanings, all that the human mind can do is to discover, recognize, interpret, and choose.* [Paper 196:3.10, page 2094.9]

As humans it's our business to choose. Which makes sense, because it's our personal and wilful choices that allow our Adjuster to weave for us a soul. But for us to make free-will, soul-worthy choices, we need some sort of intuition about value and validity; some way to sense what's real; some way to evaluate and discriminate "things, meanings and values". Having learned of the cosmic intuitions, we can see how the necessary reality responses are fostered by the Holy Spirit—as Spirit of Fact. But what do these intuitions of validity have to do with truth? And in particular, the Spirit of Truth:

*This bestowed Comforter is the spiritual force which ever draws all truth seekers towards Him who is the personification of truth in the local universe.* [Paper 34:4.5, page 377.9]

The personification of truth in the local universe. For most of us, this sort of truth is new. It's not philosophical or mathematical, it's living, personal, and seeks relationship. It's the truth made accessible by the presence of Michael and Dad within,

*Truth is made accessible to the wisdom-endowed individual by the bestowal on such a mind of the spirits of the Father and the Sons, the Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth.* [Paper 101:6.4, page 1111:8]

And what about the truth in this most wonderful and unforgettable paragraph:

*Faith most willingly carries reason along as far as reason can go and then goes on with wisdom to the full philosophic limit; and then it dares to launch out upon the limitless and never-ending universe journey in the sole company of TRUTH.* [Paper 103:9.7, page 1141.5]

Notice, it's not *faith*, but the person *wielding faith*, that chooses to dare to launch. This kind of "TRUTH" lives beyond that "full philosophic limit." So how does this relate to those more familiar species of truth which motivate the work of physicists, philosophers and poets? And what about this:

*Increasingly throughout the morontia progression the assurance of truth replaces the assurance of faith. When you are finally mustered into the actual spirit world, then will the assurances of pure spirit insight operate in the place of faith and truth or, rather, in conjunction with, and superimposed upon, these former techniques of personality assurance.* [Paper 101:5.14, page 1111:4] emphasis added



Differential personality response to spirit influence, illustration

Truth as "a technique of personality assurance"? So I'm thinking... while the personality assurance made accessible by the Father/Son validates our reality as persons in the personality circuit, it's this "resonance" with cosmic intuitions (made accessible by Mum) that enables us – as persons – to discover, recognize, interpret and choose.

**...the personality assurance made accessible by the Father/Son validates our reality as persons...**

So here's the question: is this numinous validation, these "intuitive realizations of validity", what reflective humans have historically interpreted as truth? If so, should we dismiss such feelingly experienced validation as something less than truth? Or should we help to reveal the good news about another species of truth, a truth that's personal and life-giving, a distinct and unexpected truth now made accessible by the Spirit of that Truth, the truth Caligastia and Adam were commissioned to plant as the essential motivation in all human cultures: that we are our Father's children?

Everyone will have their own response to *The Urantia Book*. For me, it simply offers a bigger frame in which to think; and within this bigger frame, scientists can see the material universe in context, and mystics can understand their experiences in a way that they can share. Let's not forget, revelation is all about bridging the gulf back to territory evolution has attained. ■



# Surprises from the Undercover Boss

MARION STEWARD  
New Zealand

**T**HE TV SHOW UNDERCOVER BOSS SHOWS bosses going undercover in their own companies. Typically, the bosses change their appearance, get a job on the shop floor, or at the shop counter, and experience work in their company as an employee. Eventually they come clean, reveal their true identity and bestow gifts, salary increases and significant sums of money on deserving members of their workforce. Occasionally they will demote or even sack those who are not deserving!

**...similarities between the undercover boss and Jesus' experiences on Urantia. He, too, changed his appearance, took a job on the shop floor, that is, human being...**

As I thought about my brief to make a presentation based on Part IV of *The Urantia Book*, the Life and Teachings of Jesus, I began to see some similarities between the undercover boss and Jesus' experiences on Urantia. He, too, changed his appearance, took a job on the shop floor, that is, human being, and experienced life as a lowly mortal. He, too, eventually revealed himself as the Boss, and bestowed many great gifts upon us, his 'employees'—his life as an unparalleled example, his teachings and the Spirit of Truth. (The demotion or dismissal of undeserving mortals did not lie within his brief).

So a catchy title was born—what then of the content? Contemplating the conference theme of more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy, I asked myself what ideas, values, truths, facts, and philosophies were revealed in Part IV that surprised me, and that I had never dreamed of before? One of the advantages of making a presentation is that you can present your own perspective on things, so I have selected those aspects which were and are a welcome and amazing expansion and addition to my own philosophy, on reading this gripping tale of the life of our Boss on Earth, and hope that this personal selection resonates with you and perhaps encourages you to reflect on how



To be more fully with you in spirit, illustration

your own philosophy has benefited from this amazing book.

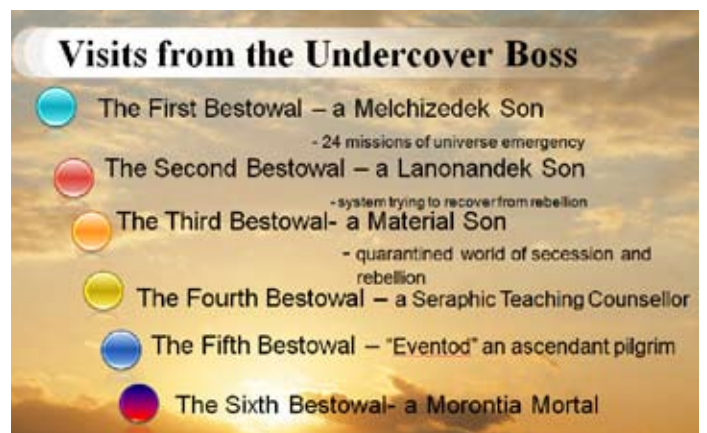
I have divided this presentation into two parts, with the significant number of seven sections.

First, a brief survey of some fascinating facts, which we had either no clue about before the book, or had incorrect ideas. These are the previous six bestowals, the birth and early life of Jesus the boy, and some intriguing aspects of his life as a young man.

I will then discuss some of what I consider to be compelling concepts, beginning with one of my personal favourites, Women and Men are equal in the universe! Then I will consider the Boss as an average man – why did he do this and how did he manage it? This leads on nicely to concepts of sacrifice, areas where *The Urantia Book* is very much at odds with mainstream Christian thought. Finally, and most importantly, his life as an inspiration to us all.

## Fascinating Facts

### The Previous Six Bestowals



**The Bestowals were an amazing revelation**—who had ever thought that we were not the first place to be visited but the last! Michael worked his way down from Heaven to Earth, as it were, from the highest levels of Sonship in his universe to the lowest level of mortal. He tended to choose rebellion-torn systems/worlds where he could. He first served as a Melchizedek, and went on 24 missions in the emergency service. Then he became a Lanonandek Son, and served in a system trying to recover from rebellion. His third mission was as a Material Son on a quarantined world, with no communication with the outside universe, working alone for one generation of planetary time. The value of these bestowals is described in this quote:

*Never since this marvellous bestowal ...have any of the Material Sons or Daughters in Nebadon been tempted to complain of their assignments or to find fault with the difficulties of their planetary missions.* [Paper 119:3.7, page1313:2]

The fourth bestowal was as a seraphic teaching counsellor, during which he worked on 22 different worlds. Next he was an ascendant mortal pilgrim on Uversa, going by the name of Eventod, for 11 years of local time, before returning to Salvington.

Michael was very much undercover until just before the sixth bestowal. He was always officially absent on an unexplained mission *“And having thus spoken, Michael of Nebadon vanished from the sight of all those assembled and did not reappear for twenty years of standard time.”* [Paper 119:1.2, page1309:3] but, of course, a strange Son or Seraphim would suddenly appear and the local universe watchers would speculate as to who they really were. They were the worst kept secrets in the Local Universe, really. He finally officially came clean just before the sixth bestowal, when he announced to all on Salvington the plans for the sixth and seventh bestowals, morontia mortal and then mortal.

What is the purpose of the bestowal missions? They provide the Creator sons the opportunity to acquire the viewpoint of [their] own creatures by actual experience in the environment of their existence and as these very creatures themselves, and in so doing, gain the *“patience born of experiential creature existence.”* [Paper 119:0.6, page1309:0]

**The Birth of Jesus**

And so to the seventh bestowal on Urantia, Michael’s life here as the Undercover Boss. While this was not a secret to the rest of the universe, it certainly was to the people on our planet. There were many truths revealed in *The Urantia Book* about the birth of Jesus which I was surprised to learn.

First, it was not a Virgin Birth, as Mary was already married to Joseph when she conceived him. There was no Star of Bethlehem, and the book gives an astronomical explanation of how the star story

came about—that between May 29th and Sept 29th and Dec 5th there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. There were three wise men, but they didn’t actually visit until Jesus was three weeks old. There is still some mystery surrounding this aspect, though, as described in the following excerpt: *“Certain wise men of Earth knew of Michael’s impending arrival. Through the contacts of one world with another, these wise men of spiritual insight learned of the forthcoming bestowal of Michael on Urantia.”* [Paper 119:7.6, page1317:2] emphasis added. What were these contacts? Visions? Dreams? From which world? There is clearly much more to uncover about this intriguing event, which we will probably have to wait until the Mansion Worlds to find out about.

*...it was not a Virgin Birth, as Mary was already married to Joseph when she conceived him.*

**Jesus as a young man**

One of the most fascinating aspects of Part IV is the story of Jesus growing up—if the whole world could only know about this! It filled in all the little details of his personality and early life that were unknown before we received *The Urantia Book*.



For example, Jesus was a talented artist and art lover. *“He delighted in drawing landscapes as well as in modelling a great variety of objects in potter’s clay.”* [Paper 124:1.3, page1366:4]

During his public life, he visited Flavius the Greek Jew, and greatly admired his art collection, much to the surprise of Flavius. Jesus explained that idolatry in Moses’ day was an issue, but with his current mission on Earth people will no longer confuse the Creator Father with idols of stone or images of gold and silver. *“Henceforth, intelligent men may enjoy the treasures of art without confusing such material appreciation of beauty with the worship and service of the Father in Paradise.”* [Paper 142:4.3, page1600:3] Along with his love of art, he was also a skilled harpist, and had a great love for everything musical, encouraging his young friends in singing.

More controversially, he was a strong supporter of athletic competitions. Jewish people disapproved strongly of Greek athletics and sports competitions at the time, viewing them as exhibitions of heathen vaingloriousness, and in their placing of the winners on a pedestal, coming close to idolatry. *“Joseph was inexpressibly shocked to observe his son’s enthusiasm as he beheld these exhibitions of “heathen” vaingloriousness.”* [Paper 124:3.7, page1370:5]

They were also not comfortable with nudity, or with homosexuality, which were traditionally



features of Greek life. When Jesus expressed a strong interest in building a sports stadium at Nazareth, Joseph spoke to him angrily for possibly the only time in their life together. Jesus never spoke of it again. But *“throughout his life he endeavoured to introduce the idea of wholesome recreation into his personal plans, and as far as Jewish practice would permit, into the later program of regular activities for his twelve apostles.”* [Paper 124:3.9, page1371:2]

## Compelling Concepts

### Women and Men are Equal

One of the most pleasant surprises I had on reading Part IV was that in the universe, women and men are equal. Jesus was, by the standards of our day, a strong feminist. The first evidence of this was in his thirteenth year, when he first went to the Passover in Jerusalem.

**Jesus was, by the standards of our day, a strong feminist.**

*“Women seldom went to the Passover feast at Jerusalem; they were not required to be present. Jesus, however, virtually refused to go unless his mother would accompany them.”* [Paper 125:0.2, page 1377:2] This inspired other women in Nazareth, and more of them went up to Jerusalem on that occasion than ever before.

On the same visit, he was shocked when his mother left them to go to the women’s gallery. *“It had never occurred to Jesus that his mother was not to accompany him to the consecration ceremonies, and he was thoroughly indignant that she was made to suffer from such unjust discrimination.”* [Paper 125:0.4, page 1377:4] A day later, in discussions with the priests, among other questions he asked:

*“Why should mothers in Israel be segregated from the male temple worshipers?”* [Paper 125:5.4, page 1382:6] He continued to try and improve the treatment of girls in his culture, in small ways and in large. After the death of Joseph, when he was acting as the father of the family, he made sure that his sisters received some education.

*Ordinarily, the girls of Jewish families received little education, but Jesus maintained that girls should go to school the same as boys, and since the synagogue school would not receive them, there was nothing to do but conduct a home school especially for them.* [Paper 127:1.5, page 1396:2]

During the travels with Gonod and Ganid, there was that famous scene at the dock in Tarentum when he saw a man berating his wife and gently intervened. Among other comments, he said: *“...man has no rightful authority over women unless the woman has willingly and voluntarily given him such authority.”* and *“[t]he loving care and consideration which a man is willing to bestow upon his wife and children are the measure of that man’s attainment of*

*the higher levels of creative and spiritual self-consciousness. ... The Father in Heaven treats the Spirit Mother of the children of the universe as one equal to himself.”* [Paper 133:2.2, page 1471:1] This is such a different picture of gender relationships than that portrayed in the *Bible* and by Christian churches. Throughout my youth in the Anglican Church, I never encountered even a hint of a God the Mother concept, so to read such words in *The Urantia Book* was an amazing revelation.

And the crowning act in acknowledging the equality of women in the Kingdom—the women’s evangelistic corps. *“The most astonishing and the most evolutionary feature of Michael’s mission on earth was his attitude towards women. In a day and generation when a man was not supposed to salute even his own wife in a public place, Jesus dared to take women along as teachers of the gospel in connection with his third tour of Galilee. And he had the consummate courage to do this in the face of the rabbinic teaching which declared that it was “better that the words of the law should be burned than delivered to women”* [Paper 149:2.8, page1671:3]. The Apostles were astonished and shocked, as was every other Jewish man, although naturally the women were elated, and the women’s corps were able to work with women of “questionable character” and win them to the kingdom—most notably, Mary Magdalene.

### The Boss as an average man

A further compelling concept that surprised me a little was Jesus as an average man. Michael’s goal on Earth was to be approachable to the common people, and to live an average life, just like any other person on the planet. He had an ordinary boyhood, and experienced teenagerhood, until at 14 he had to function as a father, on the death of Joseph. From fifteen to twenty he had quite a challenging life, struggling with all the things teenagers struggle with and also having to look after his family. My favourite quote, as the mother of a teenager, is this one:

*Having thus tasted the actual experience of living these adolescent years in a world beset by evil and distraught by sin the Son of Man became possessed of full knowledge about the life experience of the youth of all the realms of Nebadon, and thus forever he became the understanding refuge for the distressed and perplexed adolescents of all ages and on all worlds throughout the local universe.* [Paper 127:0.3, page 1395:3]

He even had to deal with a proposal of marriage, which he regretfully declined, but with the very kind words *“It shall cheer and comfort me all the days of my life.”* [Paper 127:5.5, page 1403:3]

As with all the previous bestowals, his experience living the life of one of his creatures made it possible



for him to totally empathise with our struggles, and also made it possible for all of us to know that Michael truly understands what we are going through, because he has been through it himself.

### Sacrifice

Part IV also sheds much light on the notion of Jesus sacrificing himself for our sins.

Sacrifice has two definitions, according to the Webster dictionary:

1. The offering of animal, plant or human life to a deity, as in propitiation or homage;
2. The surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim.

My understanding of mainstream Christian church thinking is that the death of Jesus was a sacrifice according to meaning No.1. They place his death at the centre of their belief system, and believe that this ‘sacrifice’ was to atone for the Fall, to regain God’s love and friendship, which he withdrew when Adam and Eve did not follow his rules.

This implies that God withdrew his love from us in the thousands of years between Adam and Eve and Jesus’ death of the Cross, which I find neither logical nor consistent. As Jesus pointed out at the Temple to his human father Joseph: *“The Heavenly Father cannot love his children less than you love me. And I well know, no matter what unwise thing I might do, you would never pour out wrath upon me nor vent anger against me.”* [Paper 125:0.6, page 1378:1] If God is a God of love, then such a thing is truly not consistent with his nature.

The sacrifices that Jesus made throughout his life on Urantia are clearly according to meaning No.2, and are a reflection of his superb self-control. He controlled all his creative urges—art, and support for athletic competition—to conform to local and family customs.

At the age of 19 he had to sell his harp so that Jude, his younger brother, could go to school.

*Thus disappeared the last of his recreational pleasures. He much loved to play the harp when tired in mind and weary in body, but he comforted himself with the thought that at least the harp was safe from seizure by the tax collector.* [Paper 127:4.10, page 1402:3]

Far more than these human sacrifices, throughout his whole bestowal he voluntarily surrendered his sovereignty and his ‘supernatural’ powers. Most miracles happened by accident, consequence of a miraculous person living, by faith, a wholehearted mortal experience—he refused to live anything other than an average normal life right up to the end.



It was an immense revelation to me to discover that the Atonement Doctrine was incorrect, and that if we choose to “follow Jesus”, this means making sacrifices for greater good, as in meaning No. 2—a far nobler enterprise, to my way of thinking!

***Jesus didn't die for us, he lived for us, and not just for us, but for the whole local universe...***

### His Life as an Inspiration

The best surprise for me in reading Part IV was to realise that Michael/Jesus didn't die for us, he lived for us, and not just for us, but for the whole local universe, who were all watching, like there was no other show in the universe—much more popular, I suspect, than the Undercover Boss TV show here on Earth.

He was and is a powerful role model, but an inspiration, not an example. We do not have to try and live Jesus' life, which is clearly not possible! Our goal is to *“live our lives in our day and as we are, ...by the same means that he lived his.”* [Paper 129:4.7, page1426:0] We too can aim to live *“...a true and genuinely human life,”* [Paper 129:4.7, page1425:6] and enlarge and enrich our philosophies of life by studying the life lived by our Undercover Boss on our world, and remember every day that he has experienced a truly normal, human life and understands through this experience the challenges that we face. ■

## Truth and Sonship

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VERNER VERASS  
Australia

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**W**E ARE IN THAT WONDERFUL TIME OF transition, from confusion to clarity, from error to truth. We are but the first generation of hundreds to come that have been privileged to get a glimpse of eternal truth as presented in *The Urantia Book*. Truth will set everyone free, however, such liberty of enhanced awareness of the dignity of sonship carries with it responsibilities. To freely give as we've freely received.

We have asked the collective questions over the ages...who are we?

Where are we going?

Now we have answers sufficient to satisfy mind and soul. Let us courageously and with sincerity embrace the answers which appeared in book-form a mere short 60 years ago (1955). Hot off the "cosmic press" so-to-speak.

**Who are we?**

**Where are we going?**

**Now we have answers sufficient to satisfy mind and soul.**

The aim being, that the fact of sonship with God be grasped as a fundamental reality, that this ennobling truth lives anew in the lives of each person. Spirit leads each man and woman unerringly to all truth. As children of the Father of all persons, we have a right to be confident in our status with him. He has spanned a universe to live in our minds to share in our individual lives. We have the capacity for truth recognition built into us ...trust it as a child. In this complex time of confusion it is the one dependable confirmation of what is really true.

The challenge, we, each unique and individuated personal truth in the shape of a mortal son of the Universal Father, has, is to co-operate...OBEY. Cease to resist the Divine lover who resides within the core of each free-willed sentient man and woman in the world.



The relationship of father and child is inherent in all nature and pervades all living existences

Your personal experiential truth is destined to find a place of harmony with the universal eternal truth accepted by everyone else. That's why the fundamental truth which has been presented repeatedly to the whole planet ever since it was registered as a mortal inhabited world a million years ago, has unprecedented opportunity of acceptance:

1. God is verifiable in human experience and is a loving creator and upholder of the universe we inhabit.
2. We comprise an organic spiritual and social brotherhood, in God we live breathe and have our being.
3. The creator of personality is personally contactable.

The simplicity of the parent child relationship underpins the message Jesus delivered 2,000 years ago and as yet, has not achieved spiritual receptivity sufficient to effect the social transformation as will surely happen now that the Lucifer Rebellion has been terminated and resulting confusion is cleared by truth overcoming error. Our planet is quivering on the brink of finally accepting that God is our Father and we are his children.

Science has vanquished superstition to allow maximum receptivity of what is really true, the "kingdom within." Between God and man, there are no intermediaries, spirit is turned up to full volume, an uninterrupted spirit, to light, to fire-up, the living personal experience of every sincere truth seeker.

Look at the accelerated phenomenon of human interactivity even in our short lifetime with the advent of the world-wide-web, facilitating a real online band of fire-starters. Things are becoming new, old ideas and old attitudes are being challenged. Spiritual power is the

greatest force for good there is. Love is the motivator, for unless a Divine lover lived in man, man could not unselfishly and spiritually love. The more I love the Father the more I love my brother, this is an inevitable consequence.

Michael is our Sovereign Creator Son, he loves this place where he lived out his final mortal bestowal experience as Jesus of Nazareth, he is our father/brother who we are destined to meet personally, for all who go to the Father, go by him. This is Michael's world and he has already triumphed, it's time for us to stand with him in confidence of that truth.

As mortals, we are only passing through and our time here in this initial life experience is short, a blink of God's eye. Realistically, the limits to what one generation can achieve is a matter of personal choice, the pace of progress will establish what the next generation can build upon. Through the normal constrains of patient methodical, living experience, potentials can be made actual in progress towards a vision of peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind—brotherhood—the truth of one religion. Spiritual change can be sudden, it is already occurring in the souls of truth seeking mortals alive today. As the individual family member, so the society. If the family is good, the society is likewise, good. Every unique person is having their own individual experience of exposure to the same Spirit of Truth truth which has been poured out to all mankind that Jesus is revealed in us.

**Identical spirit influence—differential personality response**

We benefit each and every one, from the full force of seven, welling up from within (effectiveness of spirit as an agency to progress our planet).

With the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth, we have the last of the spirit endowment designed in the aid of the ascending worlds. We are now beneficiaries of all seven higher spirit influences.

*In a way, mankind is subject to the double influence of the sevenfold appeal of the universe spirit influences. The early evolutionary races of mortals are subject to the progressive contact of the seven adjutant mind-spirits of the local universe Mother Spirit. As man progresses upward in the scale of intelligence and spiritual perception, there eventually come to hover over him and dwell within him the seven higher spirit influences. And these seven spirits of the advancing worlds are:*

1. *The bestowed spirit of the Universal Father—the Thought Adjusters.*
2. *The spirit presence of the Eternal Son—the spirit gravity of the universe of universes and the certain channel of all spirit communion.*

3. *The spirit presence of the Infinite Spirit—the universal spirit-mind of all creation, the spiritual source of the intellectual kinship of all progressive intelligences.*

4. *The spirit of the Universal Father and the Creator Son—the Spirit of Truth, generally regarded as the spirit of the Universe Son.*

5. *The spirit of the Infinite Spirit and the Universe Mother Spirit—the Holy Spirit, generally regarded as the spirit of the Universe Spirit.*

6. *The mind-spirit of the Universe Mother Spirit—the seven adjutant mind-spirits of the local universe.*

7. *The spirit of the Father, Sons, and Spirits—the new-name spirit of the ascending mortals of the realms after the fusion of the mortal spirit-born soul with the Paradise Thought Adjuster and after the subsequent attainment of the divinity and glorification of the status of the Paradise Corps of the Finality.*

**With the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth, we have the last of the spirit endowment designed in the aid of the ascending search for God**

**And so did the bestowal of the Spirit of Truth bring to the world and its peoples the last of the spirit endowment designed to aid in the ascending search for God.** [Paper 194:2.12–20, page 2062:1–9] emphasis added

The reality of any proposition can only be realised if it is thoroughly socialised. By co-operative sharing of individually discovered truth we progress.

*...The social consciousness is not inalienable like the Godconsciousness; it is a cultural development and is dependent on **knowledge**, symbols, and the contributions of the constitutive endowments of man—science, morality, and religion. And these cosmic gifts, **socialized**, constitute civilization.* [Paper 16:9.4, page 195:10] emphasis added

We know *knowledge* is only possessed by sharing... cooperation.

*...**Knowledge** is possessed only by sharing; it is safeguarded by wisdom and **socialized** by love.* [Paper 48:7.28, page 557:12] emphasis added

Responding to the Spirit of Truth requires alignment of personal aspirations with divine leading, our will with God's will—ambition is dangerous till socialized.

*...Ambition is dangerous until it is **fully socialized**. You have not truly acquired any virtue until your acts make you worthy of it.* [Paper 48:7.19, page 557:3] emphasis added

With your Thought Adjuster you have a perfect guide with the Spirit of Truth you have the capacity to know truth and do good...love your fellows. Love is simply the desire to do good to others...true.

*Love is the desire to do good to others.* [Paper 56:10.21, page 648:4]



This, along with the knowledge that sharing is Godlike, are fundamental truths that confirm sonship with the Father and consequent fraternal brotherhood within the universe family.

While “it does not yet appear what you shall be,” even now “you are the faith sons of God”

**...even now “you are the faith sons of God”**

*It is a solemn and supernal fact that such lowly and material creatures as Urantia human beings are the sons of God, faith children of the Highest.*

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.” “As many as received him, to them gave he the power to recognize that they are the sons of God.” While “it does not yet appear what you shall be,” even now “you are the faith sons of God”... [Paper 40:6.2, page 448:1] emphasis added*

### Five reasons to be sure of sonship status

1. You are **entitled** to believe in the reality of your sonship, thereby your reality is confirmed.
2. Elder brother Michael/Jesus, **has same Father** as you do.
3. **Spirit of Son has been freely given to you**, spirit which draws you to his presence and thereby, the presence of your Father, his Father.
4. Your **Father has given you personality** that he can individually recognise you.
5. You are **directly related to the Father of all sons of God**, he’s traversed space and time from his eternal abode to be with you already.

*All evolutionary worlds of mortal habitation harbor these faith sons of God, sons of grace and mercy, mortal beings belonging to the divine family and accordingly called the sons of God. Urantia mortals are **entitled** to regard themselves as being the **sons of God** because:*

1. **You are sons of spiritual promise**, faith sons; you have accepted the status of sonship. You believe in the reality of your sonship, and thus does your sonship with God become eternally real.
2. **A Creator Son of God became one of you**; he is your elder brother in fact; and if in spirit you become truly related brothers of Christ, the victorious Michael, then in spirit must you also be sons of that Father which you have in common—even the Universal Father of all.
3. **You are sons because the spirit of a Son has been poured out upon you**, has been freely and certainly bestowed upon all Urantia races. This spirit ever draws you toward the divine Son, who is its source, and toward the Paradise Father, who is the source of that divine Son.



## Fatherhood

the relationship out of which we reason ourselves into the recognition of brotherhood

4. **Of his divine free-willness, the Universal Father has given you your creature personalities.** You have been endowed with a measure of that divine spontaneity of freewill action which God shares with all who may become his sons.
5. **There dwells within you a fragment of the Universal Father, and you are thus directly related to the divine Father of all the Sons of God.**

[Paper 40:6.3–8, page 448:2–7] emphasis added ■

# The door is open, let all who will, come

VERNER VERASS  
Australia

**S**UCH IS THE EMBRACING GENEROSITY of the Father as he extends his welcome to each of us to accept the gift of eternal life and the ever increasing capacity for joy of existence.....adventure!

There are five specific instances of the phrase “all who will” in *The Urantia Book*, yet it contains hundreds of other references to the fact we are drawn to embark on this glorious ascension career to Paradise in response to the loving call to perfection. I imagine too, that many readers have also savoured the words “whosoever will,” which results in seven more quotes which will be featured in the next *Journal*.

## all who will

1. Our body is the physical “temple” and God stands at the door and knocks.

*The physical bodies of mortals are “the temples of God.” Notwithstanding that the Sovereign Creator Sons come near the creatures of their inhabited worlds and “draw all men to themselves”; though they “stand at the door” of consciousness “and knock” and delight to come in to all who will “open the doors of their hearts”; although there does exist this intimate personal communion between the Creator Sons and their mortal creatures, nevertheless, mortal men have something from God himself which actually dwells within them; their bodies are the temples thereof.* [Paper 1:4.2, page 26:4] emphasis added

2. Our physical body hankers after the meat which perishes, best seek for the spiritual food that nourishes everlastingly.

*“My brethren, hanker not after the meat which perishes but rather seek for the spiritual food that nourishes even to eternal life; and this is the bread of life which the Son gives to all who will take it and eat, for the Father has given the Son this life without measure. And when you asked me, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ I plainly told you: ‘This is the work of God, that you believe him whom he has sent.’”* [Paper 153:2.7, page 1710:5] emphasis added

3. Our physical body is nourished by bread. To experience eternal life, all who will, are offered the bread of life.

*“I am this bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. But this bread which comes down from God, if a man eats thereof, he shall never die in spirit. I repeat, I am this living bread, and every soul who attains the realization of this united nature of God and man shall live forever. And this bread of life which I give to all who will receive is my own living and combined nature. The Father in the Son and the Son one with the Father—that is my life-giving revelation to the world and my saving gift to all nations.”* [Paper 153:2.12, page 1711:4] emphasis added



Come one, come all, through the door to eternal life, illustration

4. The invitation to accept sonship is extended to all with the capacity to respond to the call, it’s truly extended to all.

*Jesus went over to Gamala to visit John and those who worked with him at that place. That evening, after the session of questions and answers, John said to Jesus: “Master, yesterday I went over to Ashtaroth to see a man who was teaching in your name and even claiming to be able to cast out devils. Now this fellow had never been with us, neither does he follow after us; therefore I forbade him to do such things.” Then said Jesus: “Forbid him not. Do you not perceive that this gospel of the kingdom shall presently be proclaimed in all the world? How can you expect that all who will believe the gospel shall be subject to your direction? Rejoice that already our teaching has begun to manifest itself beyond the bounds of our personal influence. Do you not see, John, that those who profess to do great works in my name must eventually support our cause? They certainly will not be quick to speak evil of me. My son, in matters of this sort it would be better for you to reckon that he who is not against us is for us. In the generations to come many who are not wholly worthy will do many strange things in my name, but I will not forbid them. I tell you that, even when a cup of cold water is given to a thirsty soul, the Father’s messengers shall ever make record of such a service of love.”* [Paper 159:2.1, page 1764:3] emphasis added

**...we are drawn to embark on this glorious ascension career to Paradise in response to the loving call to perfection.**

5. The same Jesus, now Michael Sovereign of Nebadon, Supreme Creator Son, with full authority over all living creatures in his realm, extends eternal life to “all who will” become faith sons of God.

*“Father, my hour has come; now glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you. I know that you have given me full authority over all living creatures in my realm, and I will give eternal life to all who will become faith sons of God. And this is eternal life, that my creatures should know you as the only true God and Father of all, and that they should believe in him whom you sent into the world. Father, I have exalted you on earth and have accomplished the work which you gave me to do. I have almost finished my bestowal upon the children of our own creation; there remains only for me to lay down my life in the flesh. And now, O my Father, glorify me with the glory which I had with you before this world was and receive me once more at your right hand.”* [Paper 182:1.3, page 1963:5] emphasis added

These are everlastingly true words of salvation.....a promise of life in abundance for “whosoever will.” ■

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