CHARLES FILLMORE --- August 5, 1923.

God

People ask me what the subject of my talk is to be, and I say, "You choose the subject. It don't make any difference what the subject is to me, I only just have one sermon." I find that all my talks and all the talks of the people who are studying the Truth finally get back to the one proposition and that is First Cause, God. And the next proposition is: What are the plans, the idea or the son of this first Cause.

Well, we call that Christ; and then what is the next important step? That we demonstrate, and who is the greatest demonstrator? Jesus Christ. Then the real subject of all sermons and talks and lectures should be Christianity, because Christianity was before Jesus Christ. He was the greatest demonstrator of Christianity. So we find that Christianity existed from the very beginning in certain fundamental principles, and it is those

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principles that make Christianity what it is. There is no doubt that Christianity is the greatest of religions because it has combined more good principles than any other religion. Jesus Christ didn't originate all of the teachings which are given under his name. You will find them before him. The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," that was given several thousand years before Jesus. It was given in a negative

way, but it was the same principle involved and you will find Jesus quoting from the Old Testament, quoting from ancient writings. S o did Paul, and all the forerunners of Christianity, those who built up that system which we call Christianity. That being true we can say that Christianity isn't dominated by any one personality; it doesn't depend upon personality. Why Christianity wasn't very successful when Jesus Christ was here on earth

personally, but the ideals which he taught and which were recorded in the New Testament became the ideals of a whole lot of people who saw the truth in them, and we have Christianity as a consequence. So in the Unity work we are trying to combine in the Unity teaching all the good we can discover in any religion, just appropriate it, just make it a great composite, and those ideals will continue to carry the work. It doesn't make much

difference about the personality; personalities go and come but the ideal is the thing and that ideal, if you can raise it to its highest power, is Spirit. When you have realized that Spirit is all and Spirit is omnipresent why you have got the key to the whole situation and that is what Christianity is. Many people think that it is necessary that they belong to, Oh so many different kinds of societies in order to round out their lives; they must

belong to some benevolent society and some altruistic society and a thousand and one different societies in order to get what they call the practical side of life. Of course they want to belong to the church, that is going to help them out after they are dead, but they want the practical side through belonging to some of the many orders in the world. I assure you Christianity comprehends the whole thing, covers the whole ground.

[If you are a real Christian you don't have to belong to anything but the church of God, you don't have to join any of the centers, you don't have to belong even to Unity, which is the highest and best thing in the world today.] That is a modest concession, but it is true. And I came into this unbiased. I had never read a whole chapter in the Bible until I was twenty-five; I hardly went into the church. I investigated this as one unbiased by

his education. Many people are church members and Christians because they were born that way and they are not real safe guides, but if you had some one who had never been biased in any way, and he came to be a Christian through cold reasoning and logic, you say "There must be something in Christianity or it wouldn't have got that fellow." I am that kind of a man. I became a Christian through reasoning and logic. And I saw there was something there of

practical import, worthy of my attention. I know it is based upon facts and it is going to rule the world. People say, "I don't see why you should give so much power to Christianity. There are many religions in the world that have more followers than Christianity." That doesn't make any difference. It isn't the number of people, but it is the truths and the power and the uplift which those truths give to the people that count, and I know that Christianity is

not only ruling the world today, but it is to rule the world in the future; it is to be preached around the world to every creature. We must all of us accept these doctrines, because as I say they did not originate in any sect. This Christian sect simply gathered them together as we would gather together a great bundle of good things of any kind and sort them out and select the best and preserve it, and that becomes the foundation of our doctrine. And so

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Christianity is worthy of our attention because as I say it is based upon truths that we can every one of us apply, and that is what is needed, something that is very practical, something that you can apply in every department of your life. That is Christianity, and the reason this is true is that Christianity is the only doctrine that I know that recognizes the First Cause, God, as omnipresent Spirit. There is one God and that God is

right here present and it exists or has its throne in man's consciousness. Now nearly all of the religions tell you about an outside God and some of the exponents of Christianity talk in the same way because that is one of the phases of evolution of man, but when you get down to the esoteric teaching of Christianity, you find God is within and that is logical. It is true of all things that the Spirit that moves them comes from within; it is an invisible force. Whatever is true of the natural world must be true of the religious

or spiritual world. We find this is true, that that indwelling Spirit called God, the First Cause, is in every one of us and in every thing. That is the foundation of Christianity. God is Spirit, and if you want to know about God, you must worship him as a spiritual being. That is the next step. You must recognize yourself as Spirit. That is the Son of God. God's idea of man, of everything, is primarily spiritual, and you get those two together and

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you will begin to differentiate then and become a practical Christian. Now the church is not wholly Christian as you know. Any minister will tell you that his membership is not altogether made up of Christians. There is always a little circle on the inside that are truly Christians, that are spiritually minded and they are trying in all ways to follow the Christ principle, but there is a large body of people in the church who haven't any concept of the

religion itself, haven't any of that experience which belongs to the Christian. They are like members of a club; it is a good thing; it helps them along in their business, and they like to have their families brought up under the discipline and respectability of Christianity. It has become quite respectable in these years. It didn't use to be but it is now and people join the church for all kinds of objects. But there is always that

nucleus of Christian people who are really in earnest and seeking the highest in Christianity. Now we find that in all of these orders. There are those who understand the law and are trying to carry it out. Now to what extent are you carrying out the law? Have you found the reality, the real Christian spirit? If you have you have a good foundation. That is true understanding and when we get that understanding, why then everything

goes easy. It isn't very hard to be a Christian after you once lay hold of that foundation principle, God is Spirit, and that Spiritual something which we call man is within you and through it God, this omnipresent Spirit, is at work and then if you can add to that the idea that you have all power, all flexibility, all the field of the universe to work in, you have a foundation that no one can ever take away from you. You have found what we

call the great spiritual I Am, and the world is yours the universe is yours and everything is yours just to the extent that you can demonstrate those principles that you have just perceived. You have the illumination, the inspiration and if you apply that in the way it should be applied according to spiritual logic, don't you see there is no limit to what you can accomplish or do. You have the key in those simple propositions that will unlock every-

thing , but it must be applied. You have been applying the law in the temporal way doubtless. There is only one law and you have got the temporal or secondary results, but now apply it in a primal way, get back to first principles and cut loose from the old way, change your mind; think in a new way, and you will be surprised how quickly you get response, how quickly the law works because you are working with Spirit. Now all of you have had

experiences in handling this principle; if you have only had the courage to launch out in the deep you have got results. But you haven't received results and the reason is because you haven't been courageous enough, you haven't been fearless, you haven't been obedient. Obedience is a part of the law. It isn't that you should become a slave, a worm of the dust, a sinner, not at all. But you shall be obedient to that higher principle and realize, "Now

there is something higher than I now live for and I want that; I want that thing. Jesus Christ said, "The meek shall inherit the earth." That is true, but you apply that axiom exoterically, and you say, "The meek don't inherit the earth. It is inherited by those who take it by force and scheme for it." That is only true in the outer. That law applies to those who are meek in the presence of God or Spirit. Begin to open your mind and do away

with that assumption of the personal ego, that it has a certain relation with the world that it cannot give up. Be meek along those lines; give up all; make yourself receptive by opening your mind. There is a way of spiritual listening. You don't have to strain your ears to listen. That is what makes people deaf; they strain the ears and eyes. They are only the avenues through which Spirit expresses itself. Just relax all that

tenseness, that desire to see and hear. Let the Spirit see and hear through you and you will find your ears will open up and your eyes will get stronger. You will find there is a Spirit in man and this inspiration, this inbreathing of the infinite will open those avenues of expression. Not only seeing and hearing, but every sense will become quickened through letting go of that gripping with which the mortal ego lays hold of the mind.

The expressions of the five senses are but the material avenues through which man expresses himself. Now if you remember that and think about yourself as Spirit, I am Spirit, I am that indwelling mind, I am that indwelling knowing, I am that indwelling doing, and that indwelling power of Spirit, and as I say set a flame of spiritual essence going in your whole being and ever thing would become new to you and you would find yourself a

real spiritual being just as you were in the beginning. That is the recognition of God: I am Spirit; God is Spirit; we are spiritual beings, and we have all the privileges of Spirit. That is the next great step that I have all the privileges of Spirit. Nothing is withheld from me. With God all things are possible. With God's man all things are possible. Nothing stands in my way and I don't cling to material things any longer; I depend

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on this mighty power welling up in me. Recognize that and you will will find you will come into a power you know nothing about. The trouble with Christianity today is they don't recognize its innate power. Christians don't know they have the greatest power on earth right at hand. No, we are looking in the future for it, away off to God in the heavens, but I tell you the power and the kingdom of God is within you. I t is within every one of us. Turn your attention within and begin to recognize it and you will get the

reward of it, and it will work for you. There is nothing you can't accpmplish if you give yourself up to Spirit.as indwelling in you. "The Father within me, he doeth the works." Those words are to be kept by every one of us. We can only follow Jesus Christ by doing as he did, by affirming as he did.

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