

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Christian Initiatory Teachings

### MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES

**T**HE coming of Christ Jesus to humanity inaugurated a new epoch in world evolution.

*Freedom* may be considered the prime requisite of spiritual and evolutionary development. The various life waves rise in an harmoniously ascending scale consonant with the development of freedom. The plant kingdom possesses a larger measure of freedom than the mineral. In the animal kingdom the power of freedom is increased over the plant. In the human life wave the degree of freedom is greatly increased over that of the animal. As Robert Browning sings:

All tended to mankind,  
And man produced, all has its end thus far:  
But in completed man begins anew  
A tendency to God.

The supreme Master came proclaiming the glories of this greater freedom by word and deed: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He pointed to the full attainment of Initiate capacity, when the work of the Disciples should equal and even transcend His own: "Greater things than these shall ye do," He himself declared.

Perhaps the outstanding demonstration of human freedom as He taught it is found in the setting aside of ordinary physical law and the operation of higher-plane forces. These operations are known to the uninitiated as miracles.

In the performance of these miracles the Christ put into operation certain higher laws of Nature, generally unknown, which will in the New Age be as common to our experience as the laws belonging to the physical universe with which we are already familiar.

Each age introduces a new step leading toward ultimate emancipation of the Divine Man made in the image and likeness of God.

And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve and said unto him, Send the multitude away that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all the people.

For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

And they did eat, and were all filled; and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

—*Luke* 9:12-17.

The miracles of Christ Jesus, when interpreted esoterically, are found to be in perfect accord with Nature's occult or hidden laws, though this is not immediately evident to one whose field of investigation is limited to the phenomenal, three-dimensional world. The knowledge of, and power to manipulate, forces governed by higher metaphysical laws constitutes Mastership. Only an Initiate of high attainment can operate the forces by means of which material things can be multiplied.

The body of the Earth, when studied clairvoyantly, is found to be of a layer-like formation. Its several strata correspond with layers of forces surrounding the Earth, which are reflected in the planetary body. As the candidate progresses along the path of illumination, he acquires the ability to investigate these different Earth layers at the same time that he is working with their corresponding forces in the outer envelopes of the planet. When he has finished the ninth of the Lesser Mysteries, he has passed through the nine Earth layers and is ready to meet the Christ in the very center or heart of the Earth, and there know Him

as He is. He is then master over all the physical and superphysical laws operating on this planet, and is no longer subject to the limitations of physical existence. He has forged far beyond the present state of human evolution and becomes a superman. As Matthew says, "The invaders (pioneers) have seized on the kingdom of heaven and taken it by storm."

Christ Jesus, when feeding the multitudes, used the law pertaining to the eighth or atomistic layer of the Earth. The forces and powers of this world are reflected in the atomistic stratum of the Earth even as objects are reflected in a clear pool. In this sphere the patterns of all created things exist, and one who can control the forces operating here can multiply a thousandfold at will any already existent object. The forces in the atomistic stratum are not creative (that function belongs to a yet higher sphere); they are capable of multiplication only. The occultist must always have a nucleus with which to operate; upon this nucleus he concentrates the feminine, or image-making faculty of spirit, working directly through the fourth or water stratum which is the correlative of the fourth outer envelope of the Earth known as the lower mental world, which is the home of the archetypal forces that bring all abstract ideas into form. Through the exertion of the will or the masculine faculty, the physical atoms are marshalled into molds or patterns and the physical nucleus is increased at will. This was the procedure used by the great Master when He multiplied the loaves and fishes.

(Continued)



From the finite to infinity,  
And from Man's dust to God's infinity,  
Take all in a word: the truth in God's  
breast,  
Lies trace for trace upon ours impressed,  
Though He is so bright and we are so dim,  
We are made in His image to witness Him.  
—Robert Browning

## EDUCATION

Love is the greatest of educators. —  
*Osgood.*

Education is the apprenticeship of life.  
—*Willmot.*

There are many things which we can afford to forget which it is yet well to learn.—*Holmes*

'Tis education forms the common mind,  
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.  
—*Pope*

Observation more than books, experience rather than persons, are the prime educators.—*Alcott*

Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is at once best in quality and infinite in quantity.—*Horace Mann*

Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.  
—*Bacon*

The worst education, which teaches self-denial, is better than the best which teaches everything else and not that. —  
*Sterling.*

Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither justice nor freedom can be permanently maintained.—*Garfield*

On the diffusion of education among the people rests the preservation and perpetuation of our free institutions.—*Webster*

When you introduce into our schools a spirit of emulation, you have present the keenest spur admissible to the youthful intellect.—*Horace Mann*

No education deserves the name unless it develops thought, unless it pierces down to the mysterious spiritual principle of mind, and starts that into activity and growth.—*Whipple*

To be thoroughly imbued with the liberal arts refines the manners, and makes men to be mild and gentle in their conduct.—*Ovid*

Education is the constraining and directing of youth towards that right reason, which the law affirms, and which the experience of the best of our elders has agreed to be truly right.—*Plato*