

ATTAINING THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SELF-REALIZATION

Julian McGarry, Hobart, Tasmania
Presented at the Tasmanian Conference, October 2010



The highest levels of self-realization are attained by worship and service. – P.1572:6

The more closely man approaches God through love, the greater the reality—actuality—of that man. – P.1285:3

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE:

- Why are worship and service linked together so often in the UB?
- What is 'self-realization'? *The realization or fulfillment of one's own potential or abilities.*
- Self-actualisation (Abraham Maslow – humanistic psychologist): the need to develop one's potential fully, to lead a rich and meaningful life, and to become the best person one can become.
- Albert Schweitzer once wrote: "I don't know what your destiny will be; but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." That's what this weekend is all about!
- What are the highest levels of self-realization? As a mortal....in our future ascending career?

God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection of personality and in his universal sphere of righteous supremacy. From the Universal Father who inhabits eternity there has gone forth the supreme mandate, "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect." – p.21:3

- The UB tells us something profound: Worship and service are the key to our fulfillment of the "supreme mandate" – the ultimate self-realization!

The imitation of God is the key to perfection; the doing of his will is the secret of survival and of perfection in survival. – P.1221:3

In my Father's kingdom there shall be neither Jew nor gentile, only those who seek perfection through service, for I declare

that he who would be great in my Father's kingdom must first become server of all. If you are willing to serve your fellows, you shall sit down with me in my kingdom, even as, by serving in the similitude of the creature, I shall presently sit down with my Father in his kingdom. – P.1536:8

- But why worship, why serve? Not just because we need God, but because God needs us!

Our Father is not in hiding; he is not in arbitrary seclusion. He has mobilized the resources of divine wisdom in a never-ending effort to reveal himself to the children of his universal domains. There is an infinite grandeur and an inexpressible generosity connected with the majesty of his love which causes him to yearn for the association of every created being who can comprehend, love, or approach him. – p.62:4

- Our Father seeks intimacy with us...he desires to commune with us!!
- So this weekend, we are here to talk about relationships...extraordinary relationships...with our Father and with our fellow human...Seeking communion, intimacy, and companionship with God...and seeking a life of loving service to our brothers...the two are inextricably interwoven....
- We long to be like our Master...What did the Master say to Flavius the wealthy Greek Jew:

Flavius, I declare that in the coming kingdom they shall no longer teach, 'Do not worship this and do not worship that'; no longer shall they concern themselves with commands to refrain from this and take care not to do that, but rather shall all be concerned with one supreme duty. And this duty of man is expressed in two great privileges: sincere worship of the infinite Creator, the Paradise Father, and loving service bestowed upon one's fellow men. If you love your neighbor as you love yourself, you really know that you are a son of God. - P1600:3

- And so we come to the definitive statements about worship and service....

Worship is the highest privilege and the first duty of all created intelligences.- P303:5

Service--purposeful service, not slavery--is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service--more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service--is the goal of time and the destination of space. – P316:4

- The UB gives us the macro view (cosmology, big picture) and the micro view (moment by moment living) of reality
- So what does the UB mean by worship and service and how do we participate?
- This weekend we are going to explore the relationship between worship and service and how it can change us...make us more real....make us more like our Father...

Worship, taught Jesus, makes one increasingly like the being who is worshiped. Worship is a transforming experience whereby the finite gradually approaches and ultimately attains the presence of the Infinite. – P.1641:1

- We will look at the supernal example of Michael of Nebadon incarnated as Jesus of Nazareth:

The secret of his unparalleled religious life was this consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship--unbroken communion with God--and not by leadings, voices, visions, or extraordinary religious practices. – P2089:1

- We will look at how this change takes place at four levels of cosmic reality

The spirit of the Father speaks best to man when the human mind is in an attitude of true worship..... P.1641:1

- We will discover how worship and service assume ever greater importance in our lives as we progress in the ascending career.....we will even peer into a worship service in Paradise itself...our ultimate destination

Worship is the highest joy of Paradise existence; it is the refreshing play of Paradise. What play does for your jaded minds on earth, worship will do for your perfected souls on Paradise. The mode of worship on Paradise is utterly beyond mortal comprehension, but the spirit of it you can begin to appreciate even down here on Urantia, for the spirits of the Gods even now indwell you, hover over you, and inspire you to true worship. – P.304:3

- We will discover the critical inter-relationship of worship and service as the cosmic breath

*Worship is the technique of looking to the One for the inspiration of service to the **many**. Worship is the yardstick which measures the extent of the soul's detachment from the material universe and its simultaneous and secure attachment to the spiritual realities of all creation. - P.1616:8*

- and the exciting prospect that this relationship holds the key to the fulfillment of Jesus' gospel of the kingdom!

A new and fuller revelation of the religion of Jesus is destined to conquer an empire of materialistic secularism and to overthrow a world sway of mechanistic naturalism. – P2082:7

The world needs to see Jesus living again on earth in the experience of spirit-born mortals who effectively reveal the Master to all men. – P2084:1

The call to the adventure of building a new and transformed human society by means of the spiritual rebirth of Jesus' brotherhood of the kingdom should thrill all who believe in him as men have not been stirred since the days when they walked about on earth as his companions in the flesh. – P2084:6

- What preconceptions of worship and service do we bring with us to this conference? We need to be willing to change!
- This weekend is an opportunity to grasp the ultimate human experience...the ultimate privilege
- We may lack confidence in our ability to approach God...our Father may seem distant....unresponsive
- Our relationship with God may be too formalistic....we may know a lot about God without actually knowing God

P.1287 - §4 What man himself takes with him as a personality possession are the character consequences of the experience of having used the mind and spirit circuits of the grand universe in his Paradise ascent. When man decides, and when he consummates this decision in action, man experiences, and the meanings and the values of this experience are forever a part of his eternal character on all levels, from the finite to the final. Cosmically moral and divinely spiritual character represents the creature's capital accumulation of personal decisions which have been illuminated by sincere worship, glorified by intelligent love, and consummated in brotherly service.

P.304 - §1 The periodic, spontaneous, group, and other special outbursts of supreme adoration and spiritual praise enjoyed on Paradise are conducted under the leadership of a special corps of primary supernaphim. Under the direction of these conductors of worship, such homage achieves the creature goal of supreme pleasure and attains the heights of the perfection of sublime self-expression and personal enjoyment. All primary supernaphim crave to be conductors of worship; and all ascendant beings would enjoy forever remaining in the attitude of worship did not the chiefs of assignment periodically disperse these assemblages. But no ascendant being is ever required to enter upon the assignments of eternal service until he has attained full satisfaction in worship.

