

# POWER OF A PRESENCE TO ALL THE WORLD

### The International Sunday School Lesson For May 27 Is "The Holy Spirit And His Work."—John 15:26-16:14

(By William T. Ellis.)

Recently there have appeared in America reproductions of a remarkable picture, which is having great vogue among the discriminating. It is called "The Presence," and shows the interior of a noble cathedral. In the center of the picture is seen the high altar, where mass is being celebrated for kneeling worshippers; and the artist has cunningly conveyed the impression of the elevation of the Host. In the rear of the cathedral, behind a pillar and amid the shadows, a venerable peasant woman is kneeling, bowed with sorrow, and too humble even to approach the altar. But bending over her, in an attitude of exquisite compassion, is the figure of the Saviour, comforting the broken-hearted woman. That in reality is "The Presence."

Beautiful and superb as is the reverent picture, with its tender message to which all Christian faith would give assent, it also conveys the truth that the comfort of Christ is the comfort of Himself. He is with all who mourn and seek Him. For the representative whom Jesus promised to send to His bereaved friends, on the night before He died, was none else than His Other Self, for whom no one English word is adequate, so that many Bible students employ the Greek word "Paraclete," the one who stands instead of another. "Advocate" is as good a rendering as any. For He whom we call the Holy Spirit was sent to be the very Other Self of Jesus, to be to Christians to the end of time all that the Master Himself was to the group who gathered about His person when He was on earth. The Spirit is the presence of Jesus; He is Christ fulfilled.

When a dear one dies, we do not crave a philosophy, but a presence. Unreasonable our grief may be, but it desires nothing else so much as the very self of the departed one. This was the entirely natural, human craving of the closest friends of Jesus, to whom He opened His heart in that farewell discourse. They were not convinced that the salvation of the world was any compensation for their loss of Him—just as millions of bereaved parents nowadays, in the nearness of their present grief, have less thought for the glorious ends that are being won by the sacrifice of their heroes than they have for their own loneliness and loss. They want their boys back again, even though they do not begrudge them to the holy cause. So the fitting comfort promised to His heart-broken and perplexed asso-

ciates, by the Leader about to die was that He would send them the presence of the Paraclete—the One who was His Other Self. This Fortifier, His Strengthener, His Advocate, His Comforter, this invisible but ever-near and ever-total Spirit, would continue in reality the work of Christ. He would make them brave; He would teach them truth; He would quicken their comprehension; He would show them the nature of the Father. The whole work of the Holy Spirit would be to magnify and make plain and precious the Christ who was on His way to a cross.

So we see that Jesus is not among the mortal company of soon-to-be-forgotten dead who merely leave behind them a memory—and the neglected graveyards of earth reveal how brief that memory. Jesus left more than a memory; He bequeathed to His dear ones personality and a presence of power. His bequest was even more than a message; for it was living authority to put that message into effect. So long as the Holy Spirit lives, Jesus Himself lives.

**The Sovereign's Other Self.**  
A few days ago I had the privilege of chatting with Mr. Arthur Balfour, King George's special ambassador and plenipotentiary to the United States. He has come to this country clothed with full power to speak and act for his sovereign. He is not his own man. In all things he is a representative. His pledges are binding upon his King. The White House itself was never guarded with such elaborate precautions as surround the dwelling where Mr. Balfour abides. Any affront to him would be an affront to the majesty of his empire.

In somewhat the same fashion the Paraclete came to be the ambassador and plenipotentiary of the King who is Christ. We misunderstand both His character and His mission if we attach to Him a significance ghostly and eerie. He is conducting negotiations with men in behalf of Jesus Christ, who has given Him full authority to act in His stead. Any honor done to Him is done to Christ. Obedience to Him is obedience to Christ. In the most personal and practical way, He stands in all things for our Saviour, to interpret His mind and to fulfill His work.

There is an old, old story of an infidel who wrote on the wall: "Jesus is nowhere." His little daughter copied it, but spaced the words differently. "Jesus is now here." That is the basic truth of the lesson. The Redeemer was planning to go from His disciples; but also to stay with them. He had done all He could do by visible presence and audible words. Henceforth He would be present by the Spirit, through whom He would reveal much that the brotherhood had been unable to hear while He was in the flesh.

Through Time's Magnifying Glasses.

Lincoln and Lee are greater than they were in the sixties. Washington's glory is far above the mists of misunderstanding that surrounded him on earth. The power of these three is more effective now than they were when they were alive. Yet they left no such surviving agency as the Spirit, who descended after Jesus had risen. The parallel holds only to illustrate the accepted principle that nearness obscures full vision. Jesus could not have accomplished as much had He continued to live in the flesh throughout the centuries as He has done through the Spirit. Then His power would have been limited by His personal presence; now it is diffused throughout the universe by the omnipresent Paraclete.

Few of us busy westerners understand the first cause of the division between the Eastern Catholic church and the Roman Catholic church. Two little Latin words added to a creed split under these bodies, containing the vast majority of Christians. Those words are "et Filioque"—and from the Son." The creed had said that the Holy Spirit proceeds "from the Father." The whole controversy is called that of "the procession of the Holy Spirit." Until war laid its devastating hand upon the East, this was a constant theme of discussion in the Levant, even among peasants. Our "practical" America is not greatly interested in strictly doctrinal questions; nor sufficiently interested in the eternal verities which they represent. For it is more important than any problem of taxation or preparedness that we should have a firm grip on the reality that the Holy Spirit is a living power and personality in the world today.

**The World Outlook.**  
I like to think of those ponderous hydro-electric machines in the depths of the power-houses at Niagara as furnishing light and power not only for great civic enterprises, but also for small individual needs. The very same force that brilliantly lights the streets of Buffalo also illuminates the hall bedroom in a remote part of the city. It seems great electric cars whirling over the highways, and lifts the burden of the sewing machine from the knees of a tired woman.

So it is with the might of this sent Spirit, who is help for the hurt, strength for the striving, solace for the sorrowing, and fortitude for the fighter. The Paraclete's power is for the succor of saints, for the lifting of the lowly, for the salvation of the sinner, as well as for the making of worlds and the reshaping of human society. He is God at work in our times.

Twice it has been my work to encircle this old earth, studying social conditions; and now I am starting again around our troubled globe. As I have seen the unrest of mankind, and the deep, tidal movements of the times; and now watch the immeasurable resurgence of idealism that has followed, I can only account for it all by the sincere and simple faith that the Holy Spirit of God, sent to complete the Saviour's mission is abroad in our day, doing wondrous works. Dazed and incredulous, we behold a new world in the making, a world of democracy, justice, liberty and peace. These are goals that justify any war. The great nations have pledged themselves that the world shall be made safe for democracy. Idealism is more than the vogue; it is the deep-running

passion of humanity. All the major concerns of life are now spiritual. Public addresses and State documents are thrilling and a thrill with it. Very truly, "His day is marching on."

What means all this other than that the promises of Jesus is being vindicated and that His Spirit is newly regnant? This is the day of the power of the Paraclete: To be a materialist or a selfish now is to be a traitor to the world and to God.

**Seven Sentences Sermons.**  
Remember, gentlemen, that when you meet with a difficulty you are on the eve of a discovery.—Lord Kelvin.

Fidelity is seventenths of business success.—James Parton.

Glorious it is to wear the crown. Of a deserved and pure success; He who knows how to fall has won. A crown whose lustre is no less.—A. de laide Proctor.

Man, who man would be, must rule the empire of himself.—Shelley

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; yea, with all they getting get understanding.—Proverbs 4:7.

Men may rise on stepping stones Of their dead selves to higher things.—Tennyson.

Hard work is not a clog and a drag; it is the privilege given you to test the powers of your hand, and heart.—O. S. Davis.

**Queen Mary's Fiftieth Birthday.**  
London, May 26.—Queen Mary reached her fiftieth birthday today, and although there were no public rejoicings and festivities such as would have marked the anniversary in times of peace, the occasion was not allowed to pass entirely unnoticed. During the day an almost countless number of messages of greeting were received at Buckingham Palace from relatives, personal friends, societies and individuals in all parts of the British dominions. The greetings afforded further evidence of the fact that the manner in which her majesty has shouldered her share of the burdens and self-sacrifice imposed by the war has greatly augmented the love and esteem in which she is held by the British people.

Queen Mary was born at Kensington Palace, May 26, 1867, the eldest child of the late Duke of Teck and the late Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge. Her marriage to King George, then the Duke of York, took place in the Chapel Royal, St. James' Palace, July 6, 1893. Until her marriage the Princess passed the most of her life at the White Lodge, Richmond Park.

**Houghteling-Delano Wedding.**  
Washington, D. C., May 26.—The wedding of Miss Laura Delano, daughter of Frederic A. Delano, vice governor of the Federal Reserve Board, and James Lawrence Houghteling, Jr., of Chicago, took place at the Delano home here this afternoon. The bridegroom, who is a son of a well-known Chicago banker, has for some time been acting as special assistant secretary to the United States ambassador at Petrograd.

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## A RAINY-DAY GAME

A DELIGHTFUL "HOME-MADE" AMUSEMENT

**F**IRST, get a lot of old magazines. If your parents are willing you should destroy, and from these cut a lot of pictures, both those illustrating the text and those among the advertisements. Cut these pictures out carefully, preserving the outlines of each one, and then mount them all on a heavy card board, pasting them firmly, for you will use them a great many times. You had better get someone to help you, brothers, sister, or playmates, for you will want as many pictures as you can get. It is well to start with at least fifty, and one hundred is just twice as good. The pictures must be of living things, animals and people, although you may use many kinds

as you like, from elephants to mice, giants to brownies, men, women and children, and the more different kinds, big and little wide and narrow, you have the better.  
Now that your pictures are mounted on the cardboard and are quite dry, cut the cardboard into a lot of pieces of all sizes and shapes, square, triangles and figures of no regular shape, of odd sides, and many corners, criss-crossing many times so that your lot of mounted pictures become a lot of little pieces, scraps of pictures on bits of odd shaped cardboard. Each cardboard with a picture on it should cut up into about five pieces or even more. Now you are ready for your game.  
Heap the pieces up in the center of the table and draw your chairs close. Any number may play. You

start the game by drawing at random a piece from the pile on the table's center. The player on your left follows, drawing one piece, and so on around the table. Then you draw an other piece which you try to fit in some way to the piece you already have, the others following as before. Again you draw a piece and again the others follow, and by this time you may be able to make something like a picture from the pieces you have drawn. Again you all draw in turn, and again and again until one of you is able to make a picture of the scraps he has drawn, thus winning the game. Luck and skill must combine to aid the player's winning in this game. You may have almost enough to make a complete figure but lack just one feature, say a head, and the next four or

five pieces you draw may all chance to be hands or feet. Of course, you add these to your picture, if you can, for it would make it all the funnier. Or you may draw a horse's head, a swan's neck, a woman's body, a long skirt and a farmer's great boots, and so complete your picture in four draws. Skill in putting the piece together counts almost as much as luck in drawing the needed pieces from the pile.  
A player is not obliged to use in his picture every piece he draws, but may not trade these unused pieces with any player; he must keep them until the end of the game, when all the pieces are shuffled and mixed together and again heaped in the center of the table when another game starts.

## CUTTING ROYAL LOCKS

**I**N some Eastern countries children's hair is not cut until they are ten or twelve years of age, the girls then being considered marriageable. Up to that time it is coiled on the top of the head and adorned with fresh flowers.  
When the great day for cutting comes, there is a grand ceremony accompanied by much feasting.  
One who was present at a royal hair-cutting tells us that the favorite of the harem was robed in long flowing garments of silk and lace, confined at the waist by a golden girdle. Her long hair coiled for the last time, was fastened with diamond pins, which gleamed and glittered among fresh white flowers and green leaves like nearly-drops of morning dew.  
There, in the presence of the ladies, her father and an officiating priest, surrounded by her maidens, some two

hundred in number, she knelt under a canopy of flowers and leaves while prayers were chanted.  
Then, the beautiful tresses being unbound, her royal father, dipping his fingers in rosewater and drawing them carefully over her head, clipped off about an eighth of an inch of hair and threw it into the golden basin, depositing at the same time, on a great silver platter ready to receive them, presents of jewels and gold.  
The priest cut the next piece, her mother the next, and so on each guest serving in turn until the little lady was shorn.  
All gave costly gifts, intended for her marriage dower—princes, ministers of State and dignitaries of all sorts, who waited in the outer courts, sending in theirs by the attendants. The day ended in feasting and a display of fireworks.

## How To Plan The Home

**T**HE ideal home does not begin with the choice of a color scheme or the selection of plans, or even the purchase of a building lot. It begins with ideals. If the man and woman, for the best homes are built by both together, have castles in the air and castles in Spain, and keep them in view, the ideal home is sure to be exactly what the name implies, "home" the dearest spot on earth, and a happy one. To resolve on the ideals which that home is to represent and express; to decide on the influence it is to have on the family, the community and, ultimately, on the nation, and to carry out those resolves and decisions, is to have a home that will be a power for good, bringing peace, content joy and

a sense of well being to all whom it reaches, and an example for other homes of the future.  
That health has much to do with happiness has been realized ever since the first green apple was eaten, but that beauty has much to do with that sensation of joy in life which is called happiness, has been less generally known. Great artists and architects and decorators have recognized and practised this theory for generations, but their work was enjoyed only by the few. With this century that beauty has become recognized at its full worth by every one. And, if after the air castles have been erected, health and beauty are jointly remembered when the ideal home is planned and chosen, ideals may be realized.

## Greenbacks are Tough

**T**HAT Uncle Sam's money stands a great deal of rough and careless handling is a fact that impresses itself upon anyone who has ever chanced to note the manner in which the average cashier pulls and jerks the bills before he pushes them through the window to the waiting patron. A single treasury note measures 3 1/2 inches in width by 7 1/2 inches in length. It will

sustain without breaking lengthwise a weight of 41 pounds, crosswise a weight of 81 pounds. The notes run four to a sheet, a sheet being 8 1/4 inches wide by 14 1/2 inches long. One of these sheets lengthwise will sustain 108 pounds and crosswise 177 pounds. When finally worn out and mutilated they are returned to the government and then destroyed.

## How Marbles Are Made

**M**OST of the stone marbles used by boys are made in Germany. The refuse only of the marble and slate quarries is employed, and this treated in such a way that there is practically no waste.  
Men and boys are employed to break the refuse stone into small cubes, and with their hammers they acquire a remarkable dexterity. The little cubes

are then thrown into a mill consisting of a groove bed stone and a revolving runner. Water is fed to the mill and the runner is rapidly revolved, while the friction does the rest.  
In half an hour the mill is stopped and a bushel or so of perfectly rounded marbles are taken out. The process costs the merest trifle.

## NATURE'S DISGUISES

**N**ATURE is a stern mother, so inflexible in her decrees that she never forgives an infraction of the simplest rule; she punishes an offender with celerity and sincerity. But nature is also kind; she fits every creature to its surroundings. With the rarest exceptions nature provides every animal with an outward covering that acts as a disguise and protection adapted to its habitation and the prevailing climate.  
In arctic regions white is the color that best protects, by making the animal of the same hue as the landscape. Accordingly, we find the polar bear white, the only bear that is white. The Alpine hare, the ermine and the Arctic fox turn white in the snowy season.  
Among birds, the ptarmigan in winter loses its summer plumage, which harmonizes so well with the hchen-covered stones among which it hides, and turns white, so very white that one may tramp through a flock lying

on the snow without perceiving a single bird.  
The Siberian sabbie does not change color in winter, because its habits are such that it does not need to become white. It often lives on berries at this season, and is so nimble on the trees that it easily catches small birds. The woodchuck of Canada also stays brown in winter; but it then burrows in river banks and subsists on fish.  
The lion has a sandy-color coat and thus easily conceals itself by crouching on the desert, while the stripes of the tiger assimilate well with the vertical stems of the bamboo and tall, stiff grass of the jungle.  
Almost all other animals of the east tribes frequent trees, and these have often spotted skins, which help to blend them with the background of foliage.  
A marked exception is the puma, whose ashy-brown fur, the color of bark, and its habits of clinging very closely to a limb as it waits for its

prey to pass underneath, make it uncommonly hard to distinguish.  
It might be thought that the conspicuous stripes of the zebra, in a country abounding with lions and leopards, would be a danger to it. But zebras go in herds, and are so wary and swift that in the daytime they have little to fear. It is at dusk, when they go to drink, that they are most exposed, and travelers say that in the twilight the zebra's black and white stripes blend so well into a grayish tint that it can hardly be seen at a short distance.  
Even an animal as big as a giraffe is said by travelers to be admirably concealed by its form and color when standing perfectly still among the dead trees often found on the outskirts of the grassy where it feeds. Its spots, its long neck, the peculiar shape of its head and horns appear altogether so like broken branches, that even the natives have been known to mistake a tree for a giraffe and a giraffe for a tree.

## THE BENEFICENT TOAD

**I**N the hope that the toad's life history and habits may be better understood, its usefulness as a destroyer of insects more fully appreciated and its protection from wanton destruction secured, the government issued a bulletin dealing with this little animal friend to all who are engaged in agriculture. To some the toad is an object of disgust, if not of fear; but the toad has always borne the burden of false and even invidious misrepresentation.  
Ancient savants in their writings clothed the toad with venomous qualities and even went so far as to locate

a valued toadstone or jewel in the head of the insect-eating little animal of nocturnal habits. Equally surprising is the reputed ability of his toadship to produce warts on the hands; to poison infants by his breath; to bring good fortune to the house in whose new-made cellar it takes up its abode. The toad is of direct service to man by reason of the noxious insects which it destroys.  
Its "boming" instinct is strong, and it lives year after year in the same locality. Convincing evidence has been furnished of two toads that occupied door yards in two different towns for twelve and twenty-three years respectively, while there is abundant proof

others that lived in the same yard for periods ranging from six to a dozen years. The belief that the toad is venomous, no doubt arises from the fact that when it is disturbed or roughly handled, it oozes through the skin a certain milky, acid fluid, but no harm attends contact with this fluid, although it may have been noticed that dogs show signs of discomfort following an attempt to bite toads. Statistics have been compiled going to show that at least 88 per cent of the toad's food is of animal origin, including ants, cut worms, thousands-legged worms, tent caterpillars, beetles, weevils, grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, sowbugs, snails and ants worms.

## ANIMAL DRINKERS

**A**LL creatures, with the exception of the highest endowed species are not only teetotalers, but drink very moderately of water.  
Rats, especially when they are feeding on corn in ricks or barns, suffer very much during the comparatively short spell of rainless weather. Even the dews, which in some measure compensate for the absence of rain, are quite insufficient for their needs.  
If you would like to see really happy rats watch a rat-indebted corn stack on a summer evening after a shower following a few scorching days. You will not have long to wait, before you

bear the stack rattle, as it were, and soon the rats will steal out to gulp down the great, glistening rain drops on the thatch and herbage near their abode.  
So thirsty do rats become that I have seen one which in spite of my frightening him back each time he appeared, made a fresh attempt about every half minute to gain a puddle of drainings from a farmyard. And I remember a farmer shooting at one, shot to fewer than seven rats which had crowded to drink from a small pool of water near a stable.  
Rabbits and hares, which may be truthfully called strict vegetarians, need very little in the shape of direct drink dew, for their food in its raw

state contains a very large percentage of moisture. And sheep in this country at least, seldom require water, except in the hottest part of the summer, and never believe when fondling of root crops in autumn and winter.  
Now, water in a direct form is indispensable to plants and weasels. This accounts for their being found in much greater numbers in well-watered districts, where the supply never fails. In those parts where there is only a scanty dew and there which holds water all the year round.  
Pigs, too, when fed on warm flesh and milk only, do not thrive so well as those which have water always in reach.