

Christ

I must now go back a little in time, and tell of an event that took place in the winter of 1910.

At one of our séances the theme of "Eternity" was proposed, and it was decided that as many of our invisible guests as were able and willing should be invited to "write" on this subject. Three very diverse poems were produced with me as the medium. When the last of these had been written down, we inquired whether any others wished to express themselves on this theme. A moment later the following sentence passed through my mind: "To explain the problem of eternity to human beings is just as impossible as to explain steam-power to a dog", whereupon the name "*Jesus*" emerged clearly and distinctly in my thought.

My sister-in-law, Mrs. Danckert, expressed the opinion that Jesus could not possibly be present, but from her knowledge of the accepted beliefs of spiritualists in general, she told us that there was a group of high spirits who called themselves the Circle of Jesus - or the Circle of Christ - and that these spirits often brought messages from him, but that he never came *himself*. I maintained the contrary view that none had the right to use his *name* without at the same time making it clear that it was only a message that was *brought in his name*. When we questioned our spiritual leader, the answer was given that Jesus himself was the originator of what had been written down. However, we could not agree within our circle, and the matter was put aside, without any further questions being raised.

A good twelve months later, in the spring of 1911, I was reading in the New Testament one evening when I came upon a sentence that, although I had read it before, now suddenly struck me as containing words that Jesus could not possibly have spoken as they were written. Turning to my wife I said: "I wonder what Jesus really meant by

those words?" Johanne answered: "Well, someone is telling me that you may indeed receive an answer." We sat down by the little table in the position that we usually adopted for our séances, and immediately we made contact with the spirit who had spoken to Johanne. He gave his name as Christ, spoke with calm authority on the subject in question, and showed us how the words had become distorted, although in essence they had originated with him.

When he had spoken, he asked us whether we would trust his word, for if we would do so, he could be of great help and assistance to us; but we would have to answer him from our innermost feelings and from our firm conviction that he was indeed Christ.¹ I said to him that spiritualists generally held the view that Christ did not address himself to human beings in such direct way, but did so through a number of high spirits. To this he replied² that he could not be guided by what human beings thought that he did, but could only comply with the directions³ that were given to him by the God and Father of us all.

My wife and I felt quite convinced of the truth of his words, and we expressed these feelings to him. He answered that we should then show this in our actions. We asked him whether it had been he who had given me the previously mentioned words on "Eternity", to which question he responded most decidedly in the affirmative.

At a séance of our circle a few days later he returned, and addressed himself via Johanne to the members of the circle; he said that he wished to speak to us, that he would not say who he was, but that we should recognize him from his words. He then gave us the parable of "The Two Brothers". (See "Toward the Light", page 141).

When he had told the parable, he asked the question: "Know you now who I am?" I replied: "You are Christ" - in which belief all the members of the circle concurred. In the name of God he then spoke a most beautiful and moving blessing upon us and upon our mission. To what extent individual members of our circle may have doubted his words I cannot say; but my wife and I were for our part convinced of their truth.

On an earlier occasion my father-in-law had told us that the spirits of the Light did not *speak* to Johanne, but *thought* what they wished her to say. Their thoughts passed through her brain, and the more passive she herself could remain, the easier it was for them to convey

¹) See "Toward the Light", pp. 95-101, for an explanation of Christ's ability to attend these séances.

²) Since this conversation was not written down, I am only able to repeat the main points.

³) See "Toward the Light", p. 96.

their thoughts correctly. Johanne herself could tell the difference between receiving spoken words and becoming aware of external thoughts entering her mind. Some of the high spirits thought so clearly that she not only received their thoughts as thought, but also heard them as words. This happened especially when Christ announced his presence. When he manifested himself, Johanne spoke fairly quickly and with unusual evenness; while during the manifestations of the other spirits, her repetition of what was thought or spoken was somewhat uneven – sometimes faster, sometimes slower. We were also for this reason aware that it must have been a very high spirit who had given us the parable of “The Two Brothers”; and we were quite convinced of *one thing* – that a high spirit of the Light would never give himself any other name than that which was rightfully his.

Thus at all events my wife and I had accepted Christ, and were ready to comply with whatever he might desire or demand of us. From that evening, Johanne’s father took over from her guardian spirit as the spiritual leader of our séances.

No more than two evenings later our spiritual leader and Christ came to request our help. We were informed that Christ had brought with him a number of deeply fallen spirits of Darkness, and that he wished Johanne to interpret his words to them. He explained that he had brought them from the Hell-Sphere, that he had only been able briefly to manifest himself there that they might see him and hear him, and that he had been unable to obtain sufficient influence over them, since he could endure the Hell-Sphere for only a short time on any single occasion.

The episode that now occurred was so strange and moving that my wife and I shall *never* forget it.

With inexpressible patience and boundless love, Christ spoke through my wife to these deeply fallen and miserable beings. And not a single one declined to follow him, all of them surrendered to his love and compassion. For a long time, evening after evening, we helped Christ, our spiritual leader and other high spirits in reasoning with these poor wretches; and as soon as Christ saw that his efforts to awaken their grief and remorse were beginning to bear fruit, they were led away to their homes in the spheres.

After working in this manner for a time, it happened one evening that the task of reasoning with the fallen spirits was handed over to me. Even though I had learned a great deal by listening to Christ, this task was indescribably hard for me, for I did not possess his measure of patience and love; but whenever I could make no progress at all with them, I was always supported by our spiritual leader.

The hardest task was to make these beings tell of the personality that they had manifested in their most recent life on Earth. Some of the stories with which they tried to deceive us were quite incredible (I spoke to our invisible guests, and my wife repeated their answers); but having a good knowledge of history, I succeeded in most cases in eliciting their proper names, thus giving me a starting point.

I shall give an example here of the help that we received. We were dealing with an especially malicious person who constantly sought to deceive us; I finally lost patience and declared to the spiritual leader that I could make no progress. At the same instant Johanne heard a clear and resonant voice speaking to the spirit in question. She first heard the voice speak the spirit's name, and then it continued: "You liar, murderer and ravisher of women, would you deceive those who seek to help you?" The spirit addressed in this way by a being whom he could not see was so terrified that he immediately admitted that the voice had spoken his rightful name, and he then became amenable to reason.

Even though these séances were extremely exhausting and took place at a time when I had a great deal of work to do, and when my wife was still weak from an attack of bronchitis, we always received an extraordinary infusion of strength, so that when we rose from our task we felt stronger and less tired than when we had begun.
