



**THE HIGH CALLING**  
by Virginia Stephenson

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***“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind . . . and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”***<sup>1</sup>

Every thoughtful person must wonder as he reads this passage from Scripture: What is the holy calling? What is God’s own purpose and grace for us that was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began? We do have a spiritual obligation to be totally aware of this holy purpose and high calling so that we may fulfill God’s plan, just as our Way-shower, Christ Jesus, did.

*“Human thinking would like to hold the whole world hostage to lawlessness, whether on the physical or mental level, and have us yield to enmity and violence, retaliating evil for evil.”*

We have been given the power of love and a sound mind so that we can face without fear the global problems that are being presented to us. More than this, we can be a silent witness to grace, a sacred instrument for divine Love. There is a way of prayer that will establish peace on earth and brotherly love. There is a way to nullify fear, hate, injustice, anarchy. There is a way of spiritual prayer that will release the Christ-peace into human consciousness so that mankind can awaken as a whole, not just one by one.

This is the “high calling,” calling us to unite in peace and to be of one mind, thereby being transparencies for truth and love. We are called to rise out of human history and identification with the human concept of body into the higher calling of children of God, identifying with the one Father of us all. In this way we lift mankind as a whole to a higher level of awareness, from the physical sense to the spiritual sense of identification. *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling . . .”*<sup>2</sup>

It was in Edinburgh that the news of the TWA hijacking came to us. As the day-by-day drama unfolded in Lebanon, we were impelled to live in constant prayer, knowing that man’s extremity is God’s opportunity. Anarchy, terrorism, and lawlessness were temptations being presented to us to believe in a selfhood apart from God, a law and an activity apart from God.

Human thinking would like to hold the whole world hostage to lawlessness, whether on the physical or mental level, and have us yield to enmity and violence, retaliating evil for evil. When we believe in the human picture and accept world appearances at face value, we are held hostage to all those negative forces that are operating as conflicting emotions in human thinking, such as fear, hate, guilt, and condemnation.

We must ask ourselves, “Where do we stand in consciousness?” Are we a house divided against itself? Do we cling to the belief of two powers, both good and evil, which is carnal-mindedness? Or do we have the awareness of God’s presence as omnipresent Love, as all substance, power, and activity? If we have the consciousness of God as the only law, then grace is the universal truth that governs individual being. With this as our

premise, we must agree that the government is on His shoulder and functions by grace. We have enough understanding of spiritual living and spiritual principles to realize: *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.”*<sup>3</sup>

With this consciousness of God’s government, we know that Love is the only power and the only presence. Standing fast in the omnipresence of Love, we refuse to yield ourselves to the temptations coming to us through the sense testimony. We do not accept lawlessness and anarchy, because they do not emanate from divine Love.

There is no time and space in Consciousness. Consciousness, divine Love, is omnipresent and fills all creation with grace, intelligence, and brotherly love. As students of truth, we know that time is but a construction of thought, a human measurement. We live in the eternal now of Consciousness, knowing that Life is unfolding and disclosing the spiritual idea of brotherly love in the realm of Soul, dissolving bias and bigotry, and thereby revealing God’s government.

The only time we experience the reality of God’s government is right now as we know the truth. In the realization of the *nowness* and *isness* of God’s government, we can witness the nonpower of lawlessness, whether it appears in our body or in our world. That which appears to us in time and space is but a mental projection, which we do not have to accept at face value. All of the world events that we see on television take place in time and space; they are but mental projections, and this precludes them from being spiritually real. Every day the media report disasters of sin, disease, and death, which hold us captive to fear unless we identify with Christ as our life.

Throughout the Iranian hostage event, we could see how the script was being written. Day after day the media bombarded us with images of hate and hostility, and all this was justified as being “news.” During this time, I was scheduled to give classwork in New Zealand. Immediately upon arriving in that calm atmosphere, where the media weren’t concentrating on events in Iran, we felt as though a great burden had been lifted. It was unbelievable how tangible the fear had been at home. The news media were out of control, manipulating the human mind by means of word and video pictures that evoked hatred and fear in the citizens.

*“We must be very alert while watching news programs, for unless we are alert, we are caught up in the hypnotism and yield to those aggressive mental suggestions.”*

We must be very alert while watching news programs, for unless we are alert, we are caught up in the hypnotism and yield to those aggressive mental suggestions. But we cannot hide our heads in the sand by never reading a newspaper or watching television, because we do need to know what is going on in this world so that we can make the necessary corrections in our mind. We must consciously reinterpret what we are seeing or hearing in order to lift ourselves above material sense into spiritual reality.

Whether we are being told of world news events or being assaulted with advertising of pains and pills, we must remember that there is no personal good or personal evil; that

there is only the one holy Self. In this way we are praying for our enemies, forgiving seventy times seven, and thus being children of God. As any world events or universal beliefs come to our attention, we must nullify the suggestion of a power apart from God, a law apart from God, by remembering that Spirit is the only power and presence. The moment the suggestion comes that the government is not on God's shoulder, we must make the correction within ourselves, knowing the truth that God is law, the law of omnipresent good.

If we have accepted two powers instead of God's government, we have a house divided against itself, and that house, that state of mind, cannot stand. Christ Jesus said, "*A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*"<sup>4</sup> The adulterated state of mind can produce only adulterated fruitage; the mind imbued with truth lets in the Light. The mental state that believes in two powers struggles to solve problems on the level of the problem. This is what we see as anarchy, lawlessness, injustice, retaliation—an eye for an eye.

You have probably played the game at a party where a phrase is whispered in a person's ear, and he in turn whispers it to the next person until it has been secretly repeated to several people. When the phrase is finally spoken aloud, it bears no resemblance to what was originally said.

*"We must not accept opinions or events of the day as real. We must lose the desire to heal, to save, to change, or to improve the appearance world and accept God's world as the only reality."*

This is similar to how the carnal mind works, the "fleshly mind," which is really no mind at all. We could call its projections rumor, gossip, opinions, theories—all misinformation based on the observations of the five physical senses. When that mental state yields to divine Consciousness, solutions unfold. Consciousness, Love, knows no problem, knows no evil. It is pure Love. It has always been pure, and It always will be pure because of Its eternal nature.

You and I must develop a healthy skepticism about everything we hear and read. We must not accept opinions or events of the day as real. We must lose the desire to heal, to save, to change, or to improve the appearance world, and accept God's world as the only reality. This *is* God's world when spiritually discerned. We must not yield to the temptation of wrong identification, but we must look deeper in the realm of Soul for the real Self. Man, in his true identity, can only show forth and express the qualities of God, for these are the only realities.

Consciousness is incorporeal and invisible and is the essence and substance of individual being. We are united in the one infinite Consciousness, which is all love. We are born of Love, and Love expresses Itself through our individual conscious being. When we meditate and go beyond words and thoughts in prayer, beyond desires—even beyond the desire to do anything or to change anything—we find in Consciousness the Christ-peace and a great sense of joy. The Christ-love *is* conscious Being and is always present. Christ is not given to us, and Christ is not withheld. We exist in Him, for He is our life,

our being. Our need then, and our “high calling,” is to unite silently with Him in love, *”endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*<sup>5</sup>

It is necessary that we spiritually renew our relationship with each other and the world through the realization of the presence of God as the one Life: “I am not some separate entity that occupies time and space, but I am joint-heir with Christ as conscious being.” I do not think that any of us have difficulty in accepting the fact that we are *conscious* being. As conscious being in *Christ*, we are infinite and certainly cannot be finitized or limited. Christ-consciousness, knowing only the government of God, maintains our body and our world.

Those who have been chosen for the “high calling” are contemplatives, and the truth automatically comes into their consciousness when they are receptive and responsive to the Christ. Each of us has at least a grain of truth, and we can give this grain of truth the opportunity to come to our conscious awareness through listening in meditation. Then we will find that we do not function through hasty judgment based on quick observation or rumor, but rather we function in truth and love.

Those who are quick to make judgments miss the Way, because they are functioning from the mental level of preconceived ideas, rumors, lies, opinions. But if you are students of The Infinite Way, you know how to create the listening attitude, which opens the door to the infinite realm of Consciousness, where Truth abides in fulness. You can wait and listen and then respond to the presence of Love that is already within you. Are you willing to wait upon the Lord, willing to abide in inner peace and wait for the still small voice to utter Itself? If you are willing, you will prove that *“greater is he that is within you, than he that is within the world.”*<sup>6</sup>

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Paul said a wonderful thing to Timothy: “. . . *stir up the gift of God, which is in thee.*”<sup>7</sup> Meditation is a way to nurture the gift that is already within us. The main function of meditation is to open us to the infinity of the Christ-consciousness, that sustained moment of purity in which we are receptive and responsive to the truth within. To live in Christ-consciousness is the *“pearl of great price.”*<sup>8</sup>

The *pearl* is our true identity. There is no greater treasure than to know that we are not just pieces of flesh and bones walking around, but that we are one with the invisible Christ. We share this precious gift of grace with all mankind by knowing that *“in him we live, and move, and have our being.”*<sup>9</sup> This union-in-Christ is a bond that links us with all mankind on a spiritual level. It is greater than any form of temporal union or agreements.

Most Christians personalize the Christ as Jesus alone, but Jesus didn’t claim the Christ-spirit only for himself. In his statement, *“my Father and your Father,”*<sup>10</sup> and again in the

Lord's Prayer, where he said, *"Our Father,"*<sup>11</sup> he was giving us the recognition that we, too, have God as our Father-Mother, as first Cause.

When we accept God as our Father, the creative Principle, we then accept the Christ as the Spirit of God in us, the same Spirit of God that was in Christ Jesus. Then we understand that when Jesus said, *"Without me you can do nothing,"*<sup>12</sup> he was speaking from Christ-consciousness, not from personal sense. He was telling each of us that without the Christ-spirit consciously active in us, we can do nothing.

The realization of the Christ as our individual spiritual being and as the spiritual being of each and every person makes us one in Spirit, one in Consciousness. Then this Spirit of peace and goodwill that was fully realized in Christ Jesus can be released through prayer, not the prayer of petition, but the prayer that acknowledges spiritual Oneness.

Spiritual understanding reveals that all men and women, regardless of their religious convictions, have this Spirit of God in them. Whether Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, or atheist, it makes no difference. It is not necessary for us to be united on the human level for our prayers to be effective, for this indwelling Spirit of God unites all true seekers on the spiritual level.

When you and I in silent prayer rise above the pairs of opposites, giving up all fear and condemnation, we release this Spirit of God, which is peace and love, into human consciousness. The Christ is a ministry of reconciliation that heals the sick, raises the dead, and forgives sinners. The Christ rouses the dormant soul faculties of those who are asleep in the dream of materialism and opens their spiritual understanding. The Spirit of God in us, acting as inner peace, dispels hate, fear, bigotry, and conflict in human thinking. *"It is the Spirit which gives life,"*<sup>13</sup> which heals all relationships. It dispels everything that *"exalteth itself against the knowledge of God"*<sup>14</sup> and creates in us an understanding heart.

*"As we abide in quietness and confidence, meditating on the Christ and the mission of the Christ, we let the peace within establish harmony without."*

Paul says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*<sup>15</sup>

Every thought, every feeling, every emotion must be brought into the love of the Christ-consciousness, which dispels all erroneous mental states, just as the sunlight dispels shadows. As we abide in quietness and confidence, meditating on the Christ and the mission of the Christ, we let the peace within establish harmony without. The Spirit unites us in spiritual oneness, dissolving human polarization and fragmentation.

Before we read further, let us stop and feel the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace that is omnipresent now. In this unity, we realize: "Christ lives now as my life, my

consciousness. Christ lives and is active right now in me and as me. The Christ, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Love, is omnipresent in me *now*.”

Let us devote several meditations a day to the realization of the Christ so that the Christ-spirit is released through you and me into human consciousness to awaken every individual to his true identity as a child of God. In this way we are peacemakers, and this is our high calling: to introduce into human consciousness the *“peace which passeth all understanding.”*<sup>16</sup>

It tells us in Scripture to pray for our enemies. How can we do this? We give them “My peace.” We recognize their true identity as offspring of Spirit and not bodies. We realize that hypnotism, which suggests that the knowledge of good and evil is power, is a kingdom divided against itself, and it cannot stand. Hypnotism is not power; it is nothing, no entity or identity. Consciousness is what we are, and this that we recognize as “My peace” is an all-embracing experience in Christ-consciousness and is the light of the world, dispelling the darkness of false beliefs.

Remember, we are not to solve a problem on the level of the problem. By laying aside all human solutions, surrendering all human opinions, judgments, and options, we are willing to loose the ego-sense that would like to solve the problem on the level of the problem. We go to the Source and lift our gaze above the appearance world, thereby opening out a way for the Christ to enter human consciousness and reveal the true and the real. As we look to the one Parent, the one Source, the one Life, which is God, we recognize that where the Spirit is realized, there is harmony, there is freedom. Consciousness, Spirit, knows no problems any more than light knows darkness or love knows hate.

There is only one infinite Consciousness, one Spirit that unifies men and nations and brings them under God’s government. “One with God is a majority,” and each one of us must be that majority by knowing that there is really only one Self, one Life, and one Soul. We must *“love our enemies, do good to them which hate us, bless them that curse us, and pray for them which despitefully use us,”*<sup>17</sup> for our neighbor, even our “enemy neighbor,” is our Self.

*“Remember, we are not to solve a problem on the level of the problem.”*

This realization that there is just one Being, infinitely manifested, brings everyone who is receptive under God’s government. Each day let us acknowledge that there is only One—one Life, one Mind, one Soul, one Being, one Consciousness appearing as individual being. By so doing, we are contributing to world peace. This acknowledgment must be done secretly, silently, and sacredly to fulfill the requirements of spiritual prayer: *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”*<sup>18</sup>

Paul says, *“Walk worthy of your vocation wherewith you are called, with gentleness and meekness and patience, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is only one body and one Spirit, even as you are*



*called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”<sup>19</sup>*

Contemplate this! This is our vocation; this is our “high calling.” We are to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In recognizing that there is only one Body, one Christ, One Being, one Life, we are automatically united spiritually to everyone in the principle of Oneness, which transcends time and space. This principle of Oneness, enthroned in our consciousness, governs every detail of our world and draws mankind as a whole into My kingdom of brotherly love.

*“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they may all be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one . . .”<sup>20</sup>*

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 1: 7,9

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 1:18

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 24:1

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 7:18

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 4:3

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 4:4

<sup>7</sup> 2 Timothy 1:6

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 13:46

<sup>9</sup> Acts 17:28

<sup>10</sup> John 20:17

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 6:9

<sup>12</sup> John 15:5

<sup>13</sup> John 6:63

<sup>14</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:5

<sup>15</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

<sup>16</sup> Philippians 4:7

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 5:44

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 6:6

<sup>19</sup> Ephesians 4:1-6

<sup>20</sup> John 17:20-23