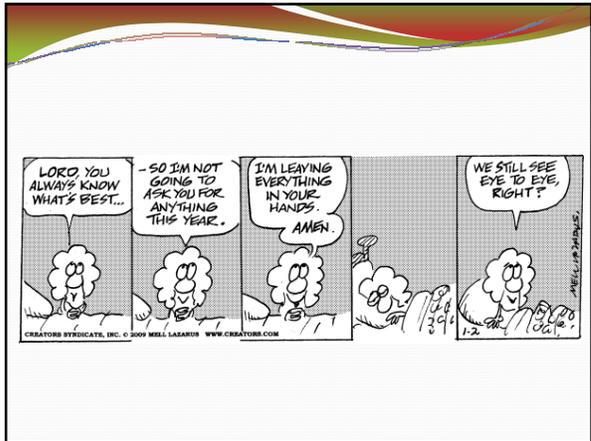


***“Claiming My Bit of Heaven in 2011”***  
**Today’s Lesson**  
***The Dynamics of Faith***



**The Dynamics of Faith**  
 It’s no accident that Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, assigned the activity of faith as the first attribute and power in his book, The Twelve Powers of Man. It is also the focus of our spiritual prayer work during the month of January.

**The Dynamics of Faith**  
 He writes: “Faith is assurance of *things* hoped for.” When there has been an aspiration and a reaching out for the spiritual life, the faith faculty becomes active in consciousness, and the prayer of affirmation is immediately effective.

**The Dynamics of Faith**  
 ...Before he met Jesus, Peter was called Simon. Simon means “hearing,” which represents receptivity. We understand from this that listening to Truth in a receptive state of mind opens the way for receiving the next degree in the divine order process, which is faith.

**The Dynamics of Faith**  
 ... Upon revealing the Truth to Jesus, Jesus gave Simon his new name, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock (faith) I will build my church.” Faith in the reality of the invisible builds a real abiding substance in mind and in body. It is from this Truth that we discover the Jesus Doctrine of Faith.

### **The Dynamics of Faith**

... Jesus taught that all ruling forces of both heaven and earth are at our command and can be found within us: *The kingdom of God is within you. Is it not written in your law, I said, "Ye are gods?" The things I have done you will do also, and greater will you do.*

### **The Dynamics of Faith**

... There is but one real faith; the avenue of expression determines the character and power of faith. So let's be clear that faith is not trust. For if we just trust God we do not have a complete understanding of the law. Understanding faith says, *I affirm the presence and power of God in my life.*

### **The Dynamics of Faith**

It is this rock like faith that established Unity's Five Spiritual Principles:

- God the Good.
- The Christ Within
- Law of Mind Action
- Prayer & Meditation
- Put Faith Into Action

### **Responsive Reading**

**Minister:**

As Jesus stated, "I of myself can do nothing, it is the Father who sent me that does the work."

### **Responsive Reading**

**Congregation:**

I surrender to the living Christ Spirit of God and respond to life with the acknowledgment that I can do all things through the Christ Spirit which strengthens me.

### **Responsive Reading**

**Minister:**

And God created them, male and female, in God's own image.

### **Responsive Reading**

**Congregation:**

**I am God's beloved child. The image of God as the living Christ Spirit in me helps me to express and manifest God's good in my life and affairs.**

### **Responsive Reading**

**Minister:**

**When asked about forgiveness Jesus said, "Forgive seventy times seven."**

### **Responsive Reading**

**Congregation:**

**Through the living Christ Spirit I forgive myself and others. I willingly admit and release all mistakes and negative emotions which I may have directed towards myself and others.**

### **Responsive Reading**

**Minister:**

**Then Jesus said, "When you pray go within and close the door and pray to God who is in secret."**

### **Responsive Reading**

**Congregation:**

**I speak directly to the Lord of my Being in an attitude of complete trust in prayer and meditation. As I pray, and renew my mind, I am aware of the living Spirit of Christ guiding and directing me to my highest and best.**

### **Responsive Reading**

**Minister:**

**And Jesus said, "Give and it will be given you...ask, seek, knock and the door will be opened...for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."**

## **Responsive Reading**

**Congregation:**

**I willingly, cheerfully, joyfully and lovingly give of my time, talents, and treasures. And as I give I also receive in consciousness the highest and best God has for me, and I am filled with gratitude. I give thanks now that all my needs are met—spiritual, physical, and emotional.**

## **Burning Bowl Contemplation**

**You are invited to take a few moments to reflect on the past year and offer up to Spirit those things you want to change and/or enhance in the coming year.**

## **Closing Affirmation**

**This is a new year, filled with wonderful opportunities. I am positive, expectant, and faith-filled. I am open to God's direction and confident that whatever lies before me will be for my highest good.  
And so it is!**