

HGSA Sunday Sermon – “Making Friends with the Invisible”

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This talk came from a Spirit guide who worked with my Godmother. His name was Dr. EJ Briggs, and he gave this talk in 1940.

Dr. Briggs was the primary Spirit entity that worked with Rev. Florence Becker conducting trance addresses at the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church in San Francisco. Sometimes he gave the Sunday sermon. He would frequently speak during development classes for adult students attending classes at her home. The most remarkable of his orations, lasting from 1 ½ to 2 hours, was on the last Sunday of the year where he would give predictions of national and world events for the coming year. The church auditorium would hold 175 people. During these predictions another 50 people, or so, would be directed to a group of chairs on the second floor where they would listen to the address over loudspeakers. This is where I sat in December of 1967, and where I heard him say that two young men, leaders in the political and social movements of the United States would be cut down, and make their transition to his world. It became apparent, later in the spring of 1968, that these leaders were Rev. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy.

Introduction – This talk from Dr. Briggs dovetailed into the materials that Rev. Becker used in her spiritual development classes for adult students. Sometimes this information made its way into our Lyceum classes for the children.

“Making Friends with the Invisible” was a call from Dr. Briggs to actively use our conscience as a guide to our thoughts and actions. So what is conscience? I think we all know what it is, but sometimes it’s good to take a pause and dive back into the details as a reminder. Conscience is the inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one’s behavior. It is a sense of one’s morality which in one of my previous talks derived from Natural law concepts of Aristotle and Cicero, and are embodied in our Spiritualist principles. Dr. Briggs offered some thoughts about what was required for Making Friends with the Invisible.

1. It started with developing our reason and intuition.
2. Intuition was a prerequisite for “self-clairvoyance”, our vision of our future path.
3. To fulfill your path you must have hope which leads to a spiritual faculty of Faith.
4. The faculty of Faith is necessary to create spiritual substance referred to as Odic Force.
5. To manifest in the Spirit World or here on the earth plane we need spiritual substance.
6. When we are able to accumulate spiritual substance, then we have Made Friends with the Invisible.

I'll go back and forth between some of Dr. Briggs' quotations in his talk, and some of my thoughts for how some of these concepts were taught to me as a child in our Lyceum.

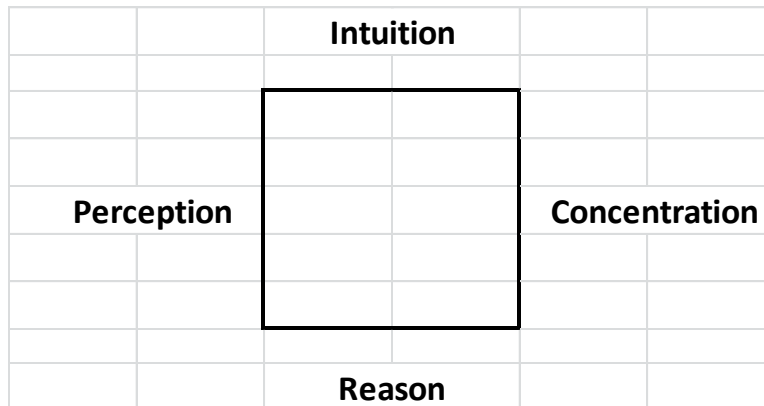
Dr. Briggs : "The true meaning of this, 'Making Friends with the Invisible', is an understanding of the Universal Law of Nature. The purpose is to take off the shackles of fear and limitations (what he termed "mental bondage") from your Conscience. Until you fathom out Conscience, you can never hope for Consciousness. You are conscious of your Conscience within, so let it spring forth. And if this Conscience directs you, through the application of Reason, to do this or that, or go here or go there, you must do it.

You must find out that your opinion, that part of your Conscience, is the Truth; and that is your work."

Glenn - We used some of the sacred geometry of the Chakras to represent different spiritual concepts. As children we learned that the square was used to represent our foundation, like the foundation of our house. For the children, our square had more to do with the Golden Rule, personal responsibility, the law of attraction and the law of cause and effect. The adults got into deeper concepts. You will find the square the Root chakra.

Dr. Briggs : "Your purpose in Making Friends with the Invisible comes on a different square where each side represents : Intuition and Reason, and Perception and Concentration. And Concentration means Application. Your square consists of Reason and Intuition, for you can't employ Reason unless your Intuition springs forth, and you can't have Perception, or perceive, unless you concentrate. The application of your concentration becomes your perception."

Glenn – You can use this diagram to visualize what Dr. Briggs is trying to describe. In the square, opposite sides tend to play off or contrast with one another.



Dr. Briggs : "When you reflect upon your Intuition, by your application of Reason, then it is the Intuition that is the part of you that is the Truth and springs forth as an echo to your Conscience.

Your Intuition will always become a source of wisdom to you. Remember, wisdom is that one thing that knows how, it doesn't have to be told. But, you can never find wisdom until you can comprehend the boundaries of your own ignorance. And, when you have comprehended the boundaries of your own ignorance, you have then reached Inner Knowing."

Glenn : We're not talking about the knowing of human intellect. We're talking about understanding (Inner Knowing, Conscience) the application of spiritual principles and laws in setting out on our spiritual path, and realizing that the path we chose was the right one for us by reflecting on reason.

Dr. Briggs : "It is the nature of man to have hope, and hope leads to the spiritual faculty of Faith. Faith is not an entity, but Faith is a faculty necessary to your mental and spiritual welfare. Faith is a faculty that will build up your spiritual resistance because there is constantly syphoned out through Faith this Odic Force, known as the Essence of Ideas and Life.

Begin to think and to feed this Idea by your Hope or Purpose. It induces a faith, or a road to the future. This is the first open door for clairvoyance, the hope is the first step. It brings to you this great Odic Force."

Glenn : This clairvoyance (I'll say it is "self-clairvoyance") is your vision of your path to the future, and is different from the clairvoyance demonstrated in service to Spirit and the individuals of our congregation. The fundamental difference is that we are all emotionally connected to what we aspire to do on our path, and the emotion often makes it more difficult for us to see ourselves truthfully. When we are in service to others, we are more objective and can see them on their path more effectively than we see ourselves. This self-clairvoyance brings in Odic Force which is stored in your Bank of Eternal Life.

There were a couple of new concepts here that Dr. Briggs introduced. One is a "spiritual faculty." We should discuss this in greater detail in another talk, but for now you can think about it in this way. A spiritual faculty is to Spirit in the mental world as our five physical senses are for us in the physical world. For us, we are both physical and mental here on this earth plane and function in both worlds at the same time depending on our attitude of mind. The other concept was "Odic force" which we will get to in a moment.

Dr. Briggs : "Every human being holds a share in this bank of Eternal Life. As soon as you put your shares into action, you will begin to draw dividends, but you will never draw dividends until you yourself begin to chalk up what your shares are worth. And they are worth just as much as you think they are. Your share is the Idea, but you keep that Idea alive by positive thoughts."

Glenn : Do you have any guesses what happens if you're beset with negative thoughts? If your reasoning was that your bank balance gets depleted a bit then you were correct.

Dr. Briggs : "The Spirit World is as solid and natural as this world is here. It is composed of spiritual substance. Spiritual substance is not matter, but is this great Odic Force, with both electric and magnetic energy. Man can be intelligently shown this Spirit World just as readily as man can be taught to see that the earth revolves. But, you have to set about this ascertaining of this spiritual nature and spiritual law by Making Friends with the Invisible. You close yourself to the exterior and live with the interior (inner knowing), and then they (Spirit) touch the vibratory notes of your heart, your love and wisdom, that leaves a permanent, indelible mark on your Being. And at that moment you become spirit yourself. THAT IS HOW MATTER PERCEIVES SPIRIT."

Glenn : As children in the Lyceum, we were taught that spiritual substance was used to build our eventual home in the Spirit World, and we were encouraged to accumulate spiritual substance through our positive thoughts, acts and deeds. It mattered not what the grandeur or lack thereof was for our physical home here on the earth plane because our real home was the one in Spirit that we were building even now.

Dr. Briggs : "Universal Law is governed by the Essence of God. You must not transgress one or the other. These two laws will solve the meaning of life. Call the Universal and Nature Laws the positive and negative. The Universal Law being Father-God and Nature's Law is Mother-Nature. Therefore, Spirit is substance, life, entity, and the mingling together of these two laws which produces electric and magnetic energy."

Glenn : Dr. Briggs wanted us to know ourselves in terms of Universal and Nature's laws in Making Friends with the Invisible.

Dr. Briggs : "In order for man to know himself, he must use Reason. That means an intelligent introduction to this Universal Law, to know yourself. The whole Universe is governed by law, there is no chance, accident or luck. Man is Idea, Essence, and the thoughts nourish the Idea, good or destructive. Its purpose prepares you for eternity. Its true meaning is the fulfillment of God's Law. Now, in this "Making Friends with our Invisible", they (Spirit) come for a purpose into your life, under the Law of Attraction. You are the essence of the Universal Law. Put a good thought over it to nourish it, and have confidence in the steps you take, and Spirit will walk beside you on your path."