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From the Desk of

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Dear Friends,

Do you remember the very first time you attended Unity? I do. It was Sunday, July 10, 1976. It was a profound encounter that changed my life forever.

It was one of those moments in our lives that require us to make a decision that will have an effect on our life's journey. It was an experience that called forth from within me the Truth that was waiting to be expressed in my life and affairs.

Do you remember your first Unity class? Mine was Discover the Power Within You by Eric Butterworth. At every class I would sit there listening to the Rev. James Heinecamp explain the spiritual insights contained within the pages and I would say, "Yes, this feels right!", "I know that!", "Finally, people who think like I do!"

Last month I celebrated 34 years of studying and applying the spiritual principles and metaphysics in my life and affairs. Did I always use them? No. There were times when my ego would try to control how I thought and what kind of responses I would demonstrate toward others in my world. Regrets? I've had a few. Could I have done it better? Yes, in retrospect or 20/20 hindsight couldn't we all do it better?

One of the statements that is attributed to Jesus as a teaching is: "In this life you will have trails and tribulations, but be of good cheer I have overcome them and so can you. In fact, the very things I have done you will do also and greater will you do."

We are the only living creatures that can change the course, the direction, the path upon which we travel through this life. And along that path we will encounter opportunities to use the spiritual principles and our truth as we understand it to create an abundant and meaningful life for ourselves. And when we are able to do this the

blessing we receive by being in alignment with our creative life force will be projected out into our world and touch those around us.

We are also the only living life forms that question our very existence. We look up to the heavens and ask, "Why am I here?", "What's my purpose?", "If there's a God, why is there so much death and destruction?", "Why do babies and children suffer so?". These and countless other questions have been asked and pondered on by sages, theologians, philosophers, spiritual masters, and others throughout the ages.

My question has been and will continue to be, "With all the great minds that have come and gone, why hasn't there been a definitive answer to all these questions?" To which my answer continues to be: "Each of us must decide for ourselves what these questions mean. Each of us has a responsibility to embrace every experience that we find ourselves in and ask, 'What's the lesson here?', 'What am I to learn from this?', 'How will this make me a better person and have a closer relationship with God?'"

For me, Unity has and will continue to be one of the greatest spiritual programs that can help change lives. As they say in the Twelve Step program: "Keep coming back for it works if **YOU** work it!"

We all have questions and the answers to those questions lie within us. It's up to us to go within and get them. We all have experiences and the meaning of those experiences also lie within us. We can access the divine answers because as Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is within you." Got questions? God's got the answers.

Join me this month as we look at the many ways in which we can develop for ourselves ways to stay aligned with the power within us (God) so that we can live an abundant and meaningful life.

*Blessings,
Rev. Chuck*