

*January 2018*  
**From the Desk of Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

Well, here it is 2018! It is a time of revival and renewal, a time when all things can be made new. Every year we reaffirm this belief with affirmations and resolutions—goals that we set for ourselves to make things different in our lives and affairs as the year unfolds for us.

As the new year approaches I am reminded of Jesus's statement in John 14:12 where he says, "The things I have done, you will do also, and greater will you do." And in Luke 17:20 he explains why we are able to do the things he did and greater ones at that, "For the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

The kingdom is within me! Wow! What a radical statement that was for its time. Everything we will ever need or want in order to reach our goals, our aspirations, our desires is within us. All we have to do is call it forth, to proclaim that we have the power, the presence of the Christ spirit within to do the works and greater works at that.

Unity teaches us, as did Jesus, that: The presence and power of God is individualized within us as the fullness of any spiritual quality we need to express--the fullness of life, love, peace, wisdom, joy, power or whatever it is you need to make the year ahead of you a blessed one. The message Jesus gives us is that we have the power within us to change all things, that through the presence and power of God within us, we can create something new every day of our lives.

You see, Jesus knew that God had created and given humankind everything they needed to create the kind of world that would bring the kingdom of God into manifestation right here, right now. Otherwise his statements in Matthew 6:8, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him; and in Luke 12:32, "It's your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," would be empty platitudes.

If you re-read the last set of statements and really internalize them you will notice something very important and powerful. Powerful in that it gives you the ability, the opportunity, the power to shape your life as Jesus told you that you could by doing the things he did and even greater things. The key, the power, is in the fact Jesus said, "Your Father!" Not my father, or my God, or my Lord, but, "Your Father!" Meditate on that until you feel the full realization of what it really means for you.

For many years I have been studying and teaching metaphysical principles, I have come to realize for myself, it's not the principles and the teachings that give me a challenge—it's the application of the principles and the teachings in my life, it's the question of how do I make practical Christianity work for me?

What I found for myself is that using the spiritual tools of denial and affirmation I can change any attitude of mind that is not in alignment with God's will for me as all good. As they say, "God knows, God shows." So, okay God, You know more about this person, this job, this situation, this challenge that life has given me. I surrender its outcome to the activity of the divine flow of Spirit, which will direct me to take the action that You tell me to take without resistance.

Well, how many of us, and be honest now, resist the guidance of Spirit? How many times have we resisted the answers and guidance we got during our prayer times because it's not what we wanted? If we really want things to change, to be better than they have been, to create something new in our lives in the coming year, then we need to use the right tools. The artist uses paint and brushes, the writer uses pen and paper, the sculptor uses chisel, stone, clay. What will you use to manifest your dreams and desires and change your life for the better in 2018? Whatever they are keep God in the midst of it all.