

*April 2018*

**From the Desk of Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

As I write this month's newsletter the Al Jolson song, April Showers keeps coming to mind. It reminds me of my days on the farm and preparing the soil for planting and the flower beds for flowers. Trusting that what we can't see yet will come into full bloom and fruition as we trust God and the universe to provide, regards of what we can see or not see with our eyes. It reminds me of this story I once heard.

"A woman was touring the English countryside with her husband. As far as she could see, there was nothing but cornfields--miles and miles of cornfields.

Suddenly, she was certain she saw the full-blown sails of a boat moving mysteriously through the cornfields. Bewildered, she turned to her husband and said, "Honey, look at the sailboat in the cornfields!"

Without thinking, her husband answered in a very logical, cynical way: "Don't be silly! Boats don't sail in cornfields." When he himself saw the sails drifting along, he was so startled that he nearly ran the car off the road!

Then they discovered the canals are constructed between the cornfields in England, canals that cannot be seen from the highway. It was not that the eyes of the two tourists had lied to them. They just could not see far enough or deeply enough. Eyes are good evaluative tools, but they are not necessarily accurate in perceiving the whole picture."

Unity teaches that: If we judge people and conditions by what we see with our physical eyes, we cannot help but be guilty of unrighteous judgement, because everything we see is merely a form through which a divine and perfect idea is in the process of being expressed. The truth is that we cannot possibly know what is best for anyone other than ourselves. God works through everyone, and everyone demonstrates the activity of God through them as they best understand that activity. One of the most important teachings Jesus ever gave to humankind was that we must not rush with our eyes to make a judgment of people or conditions. If we do, we can expect the law of cause and effect to bring the same results to us.

He taught that it is important to judge our life and affairs with a "righteous judgment." In Matt 7:1-4 we have these words from our master teacher, Jesus: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?"

For many of us, the question that comes to mind is: "How can I tell if my judgment is from my human nature or spiritual nature?" In his book *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*, Deepak Chopra gives us two very simple steps to follow in getting the answer to our question:

"When you make any [judgment]--any [judgment] at all--you can ask yourself two things: First of all, "What are the consequences of this [judgment] that I'm making?" In your heart you will immediately know what these are. Secondly, "Will this [judgment] that I'm making now bring happiness to me and to those around me?" If the answer is yes, then go ahead with the [judgment]. If the answer is no, if the [judgment] you made [about someone or something] will bring distress either to you or to those around you, don't proceed with that [judgment]. It's as simple as that.

When Jesus challenged the crowd who had gathered to stone the woman because of her behavior, he asked, "Who of you can judge his woman, who of you is without sin (shortsighted, injurious, and negative) behavior yourselves? Whoever is free of this sin, then cast the first stone" None could, because none could judge a righteous judgment. When he asked the woman who was left to judge her, she said, "No one." "And neither do I," he responded. Then he added, "Go and sin no more." In other words, don't repeat any self-inflicted nonsense (sin) upon yourself or others by judging with a shortsighted, injurious, negative (sin) attitude of mind.

Only God sees the big picture, we have to wait sometimes to see the canals that the sailboats use in the cornfields in order to make the right judgment.