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#### Spiritual Economics 6: A Life UnCommon

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Today is the final Sunday of the series we’ve been doing based on the book Spiritual Economics by Eric Butterworth. There is a handout that will allow you to take some of these ideas deeper and for those of you watching online, you can find a downloadable version on our home page.

“When you do things from your soul, the river itself moves through you. Freshness and a deep joy are signs of the current.”

These few short words from Rumi really sum up what we’ve been talking about for the past five weeks. It’s all been about how to live **from** a knowing that we are immersed in and expressions of this universal substance, this cosmic stuff, which is everywhere present.

And because we are created in the image and likeness of this conscious creative energy, our thoughts - our closely held thoughts and beliefs - are creative, and our life experience is an out-picturing of those thoughts and beliefs.

As we accept this truth, we are able to influence our life experience. And the degree to which we can influence our life experience is directly related to our acceptance of and confidence in this truth.

As our confidence in this spiritual law strengthens, we are no longer helpless victims at the mercy of social currents.

Butterworth assures us that our lives are not governed by the fickle finger of fate or a whimsical entity on a throne in the clouds.

The quality of our lives is determined by the quality of our consciousness.

Unity co-founder Myrtle Fillmore writes, “God is life; we make that life into living. God is love; we make divine love into loving. God is substance; we take the substantial reality and bring it through into the manifest world.”

So how do we cultivate a consciousness that will yield a life that we desire to experience? Through the consistent practice of visualization, gratitude, centering our mind in truth, affirming spiritual law, minding our thinking and releasing limiting beliefs and giving.

I think that one of the most important sentences in the entire book is this: It depends on what we’re thinking and feeling when we do what we do.” Our results depend on what we’re thinking and feeling when we do what we do.”

When we use the tool of visualization, what we’re thinking and feeling when we do it determine the result. If we’re only thinking about getting - getting money, getting stuff, getting health, then our consciousness is focused on outer results and is not backed by the power from within.

One of Phinneas Quimby’s students (Quimby being the father of New Thought teachings) used to say, “If your mind is in the matter, then that is what’s the matter.”

Meaning, unless our minds are centered in the truth that we are made out of infinite universal substance when we do what we do, we are not using spiritual principle. We are not in the flow and, as they say, “results will vary.”

When we use the tool of visualization, we practice doing so from a consciousness of all sufficiency with as much faith and trust we can muster.

And with practice, over time we gain that same level of certainty that we have when we flick on the light switch that the light will come on that what we place in the Universal Mind will come to pass.

We create from the inside out and feeling plays a big role in our creation - and so feel your visualization.

If you are in sales, see smiling customers happily signing sales contracts. How does that feel? Don’t worry about the amount of money the contract is for - the universe will take care of that. See happy, smiling, satisfied customers who will refer you because they are delighted with your service.

If you are an artist, imagine the free flow of creative ideas materializing on canvas after canvas and customers perhaps placing their hand over their hearts because your work so moved them.

If you want to be a published author, see yourself autographing books during a successful book tour, your heart full and your hand cramping from all of the books you had to sign.

And notice that visualizing in this way also incorporates the spiritual law of giving. When you see smiling customers signing sales contracts who are delighted with your service, it’s because you were giving to them. Giving them a product they need, or giving them a service they desire and doing so with a sense of being of service.

Same with the visualization of the artist or the author. Both of those visualizations include giving something to the world. If you are visualizing a house, consider adding in that giving feeling of supplying a home for your family, or perhaps providing a place where your friends can gather.

If you’re visualizing a new job, include what you might give to the company and through the company what you might give to the world.

When we do this we infuse our visualization with the power of our feeling - how does it feel to have an abundance of love in our lives? How does it feel to be successful? How does it feel to be in the creative flow?

How does it feel to be of benefit to the world? When we do this we create and radiate energy molecules that draw other like molecules to them and with faith and trust it materializes in our world of experience.

And when we have strong faith and confidence, I find that gratitude is just there. We are grateful before what we’re wanting to experience shows up because we know it’s on the way.

It’s why Yeshua ben Yoseph could simply give thanks. He held not one doubt that the outcome was done because he knew that the law always, always works.

He lived in a state of gratitude knowing that he was immersed in limitless substance, always. And he lived in a state of giving as well. His life was one of service.

As we practice, limiting beliefs that hinder this flow reveal themselves. Perhaps doubt surface, or thoughts about why your dream can’t work, or thoughts of lack. These aren’t real. They are fabrications in your mind.

They can feel real because we’ve been giving them a lot of energy for a long time, but I assure you they are not. They might be temporary fact, but they are not Truth, and if you stay committed to cultivating a consciousness centered in the , you’ll be amazed at how outer circumstances will rearrange themselves.

And this brings us to the final two chapters of the book, in which we are invited into a profound shift in how we live.

Last week we talked about the power of the spiritual law of giving.

And New Thought teacher and author Joel Goldsmith tells us, “Giving and receiving are one and the same when we understand God as the source.”

Prosperity teaching is about flourishing, financially as well as in health, love and joy. Flourish was the original meaning of the word prosperous. We flourish when we are in the flow.

And this flow is about both giving and receiving or as David Owen Ritz says in Keys to the Kingdom, giving and acceptance. We can only receive at the level of what we can accept, and what we can accept depends on what and how we give to life.

Butterworth writes, “… there is a wellspring of life, substance and intelligence within you, and yours is the privilege at any time of giving way to its flow.

And giving opens the door to a conversation about tithing..

We’ve all heard the word tithe before. For many of us, it’s related to church and there’s an offering bag or plate involved. Tithing can have ten-percent expectations and can feel obligatory and for many of us, downright scary. It can even make some of us mad!

For those of us in New Thought, tithing has often been misrepresented as a spiritual law, imbued with magic - if you tithe, you’ll get rich.

Butterworth gives us a different lens. Butterworth reframes tithing not as a duty, but as an act of radical trust.

First, tithing has been a practice for thousands of years. It is found in the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egyptian societies. In Babylonia, Persia, Rome and China. While

Historically, tithing likely originated in theocracies as a form of taxation and was mandatory. Because a theocracy is a form of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god, it wasn’t much of a stretch before tithing became something you gave to God. It continued as a requirement for the church or temple even after the theocracy was dissolved.

Butterworth tells us that there is no magic in tithing. “The true purpose of tithing is to secure our consciousness in the universal flow of substance.”

But this is not to say tithing has no value. Tithing is a tool - a training discipline that helps us to discover the power in the spiritual law of giving. When we tithe we have the opportunity to practice surrendering to the divine flow.

It’s not unlike learning to ride a bicycle with training wheels. The training wheels help us to discover our balance, and once discovered we are set free to glide, unimpeded along whatever path we choose. Tithing is training wheels for consciousness training for entering into or increasing the flow that we experience.

Tithing is an opportunity to say: “I trust the Source. I recognize the flow. I participate in the divine economy.” In other words, tithing isn’t paying God. It’s reminding ourselves that God is the Source and practicing it.

And so the question isn’t so much “How much should I give,” The deeper question is, “How deeply do I trust the flow?” The more we trust the flow, the more we naturally want to give for then the act of giving opens the flow even more.

Butterworth says most of us have been trained to “get” rather than to “give.” We look to life to deliver something to us, forgetting that we are already plugged into an infinite Source.

But here's the thing: You are not a container—you are a conduit. You are not a lake meant to store; you are a river meant to flow. And as you let go, life pours through.

He writes: “We don’t give to get. We give because we are in the flow of life, and the giving keeps us in the flow.”

When we give—of time, talent, treasure, or presence—we are not emptying ourselves, we are expressing our divine nature. Done in this way, tithing is not magical thinking; it is principled living.

Butterworth’s finale is to let us know the power of our own personal transformation. As we lean into the truth that we are always sustained by the every-present full sufficiency of God, of that ever-present Substance, we influence the world around us.

We’ve been conditioned to work from the outside in, but doing that is really just rearranging the furniture out there. Lasting change doesn’t start with structure. It starts with consciousness.

As we lift our consciousness and refuse to be swayed by the limitations of the world around us, we lift the consciousness of those around us.

This is the heart of Eric Butterworth’s final chapter in Spiritual Economics, titled A New World Order. It’s not about an external plan—it’s about a spiritual blueprint unfolding from the inside out.

We can participate in this emerging world by putting these practices into play in our lives because spiritual economics is not just about improving our individual lives. When we live in this way we are a blessing to the world. We are in the flow and the flow touches everyone. This is Truth-based living.

It starts when we say:

I will no longer live in lack, even when the world is shouting scarcity.

I will no longer participate in the drama of division, even when fear tries to sell me a story.

I will see the Christ in others—even when they don’t yet see it in themselves, or when they stumble and forget.

Prosperity, in its highest sense, is never selfish. It’s inclusive because being in the flow doesn’t start and end with us. We are a conduit for the prospering of others as they are for us. We all join energetic hands in the flow.

In his final chapter, Butterworth paints a vision of a world where economic systems reflect spiritual laws—where giving and receiving are natural and balanced, where there is dignity in work, where no one is left behind.

We might say, “That sounds like a fantasy.” But I think he would respond: “It’s not a fantasy. It’s a spiritual reality waiting for someone to say yes to it.”

So here’s the question: What are we saying yes to?

When we get up in the morning, when we shop, when we pray, when we vote, when we give, when we forgive—what kind of world are we saying yes to?

You are a spiritual being. You are a radiating center of divine light. And as such, you are qualified to participate in the remaking of this world with wisdom and with faith.

And when we do this together—as a community—something powerful begins to unfold. A tipping point is reached. A new vibration begins to shape our experience.

You are not insignificant. You are not powerless. You are the light of the world. Not in metaphor—in fact.

What might it mean for you to live a life uncommon?

Maybe it means choosing faith when fear is easier. Maybe it means giving freely, even when the world tells you to hold tight. Maybe it means believing—really believing—that you are here to be a light.

We are not here to fit in—we are here to wake up and to live from Principle becoming channels for a new world consciousness.

You and I—together—we are the ones we’ve been waiting for.

I’d like to end with these lyrics from singer songwriter Jewel:

“..lend your voices only

To sounds of freedom

No longer lend your strength

To that which you wish

To be free from

Fill your lives

With love and bravery

And you shall lead

A life uncommon.”