#### 5/11/25

#### Spiritual Economics -4: The Inner Key to an Abundant Life

#### Rev Nina Clark

For the past three Sundays we’ve been talking about the ideas that Eric Butterworth puts forth in his book, Spiritual Economics.

While the book is titled, Spiritual Economics, and most of its examples relate primarily to financial abundance, everything that is said within the pages can be translated to all areas of our lives.

We started with this idea of universal substance. This idea that there is this cosmic stuff, that is everywhere present and out of which every created thing arises. Quantum science calls this universal substance the quantum field, or infinite ocean of consciousness. Those of us who are spiritually inclined call it Life, Love, Presence, Wisdom, God.

It is the Infinite intelligence of the universe - that which creates and holds planets in orbit, that which causes an acorn to grow into an oak tree, or a caterpillar into a butterfly.

For those of us with religious upbringing, this can sound either very odd, or somewhat blasphemous. I wasn’t raised in any particular faith tradition and yet when I first heard God likened to universal substance I felt an inner flinch.

The idea that God is a grand being separate from us is pervasive. But if we’re willing to be open minded, we can come to see it for the truth that it is, and that this is what Yeshua was teaching.

When modern Biblical scholars began to take a fresh look at the translations of scripture, it became clear that mistranslations were common. Take for example, the re-translations of what we call The Lord’s Prayer.

This:

“Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.”

Retranslated from the Aramaic became this:

“O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration, soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.”

Or this:

“Creator of the Shimmering Sound that touches us.

Help us breathe one holy breath feeling only you - this creates a shrine inside, in wholeness.”

Even Paul wrote in Acts, “In him we live and move and have our being."

There is only one God-substance and that which we call God has created this incredible, stunningly beautiful, awe-inspiring universe out of Itself. And as divine offspring of this God Substance, we too can create a life full of wonder and meaning.

The lives that we live are created by what we consistently hold in thought and belief, both consciously and unconsciously. All thought is creative. This is universal spiritual law. Everything that people have created has its origins in thought. The chair you’re sitting on started as a thought in someone’s mind for some purpose.

Ricky’s keyboard and Mike’s guitar both started as a thought in someone’s mind. Airplanes began as a desire to soar above the clouds. Boats were created in response to a desire to cross bodies of water or to find bigger and more fish.

These creations likely all began small - with a desire that slowly evolved into a tangible creation. “How could I…?”

Our renovated Community Cafe is a good example of this process. Is began as a desire to have a more welcoming space and evolved to the from you are currently enjoying. I really hope you will join us on June 1st for the grand opening. We will be expressing our deep gratitude of that day for the tireless and creative team that took it from vision to manifestation.

This is how spiritual law works - with a caveat: if each thought was powerful enough to create on its own, we’d have all kinds of things popping in and out of existence. It is sustained thought combined with emotion and faith that creates.

Every one of us wants something in our lives that we don’t have today. If we are not living lives that are joyful and fulfilling, it is because we are under the influence of habits of thought or beliefs that aren’t in alignment with the life that we want to live.

We can either continue to allow those beliefs to run the show, or we can take charge. What we want to experience in our lives begins with us. We can change our thoughts and our beliefs. The question is are we willing to leave our comfort zone in order to create a magnificent life?

Butterworth offers visualization as a means of helping us to create a life experience we’d like to have. He encourages us to get ourselves centered in the truth that we are made out of infinite universal substance and then to visualize **from** that consciousness, seeing ourselves as successful in whatever it is we endeavor to do.

He uses the example of athletes who have used visualization to improve their game. Over and over, in their minds they see themselves making a basket. When compared against another group who physically practiced shooting hoops for the same amount of time per day over the same time period, their improvement rate was only 1% less.

They literally visualized themselves into improved play. We can do the same: if you are in sales, see smiling customers happily signing sales contracts. If you are a dentist, see smiling patients crowding your waiting room. If you are an artist, imagine the free flow of creative ideas materializing on canvas after canvas. If you want to be or are a writer, see yourself autographing books during a successful book tour.

When we do this, we are 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? And as we do this the universal substance fills in this “mold” that we are creating.

And we do this with as much faith as we can muster. I think of faith as having that same confidence you do when you walk into a room a flip the light switch. You don’t even give it a second thought. You just flick the switch and expect the light to come on. There is no doubt. Imagine having that level of confidence that when you align your consciousness with something, it must reveal itself.

Gratitude is an expression of that level of faith. Gratitude is meant to be causative, not reactive. Not that it’s not a good thing to express gratitude when someone takes us to lunch or give us a gift - please do continue to do that - but gratitude is really a way of being.

There are several stories where Yeshua bin Yoseph simply gives thanks knowing that the outcome is done because he knows without a shadow of the doubt that the law always, always works. He lived in a state of gratitude knowing that he was immersed in limitless substance, always.

Rumi did as well, and you can feel his gratitude in his poetry. I share this again from two weeks ago.

“The Source is within you,

and this whole world

is springing up from it.

The Source is full,

its waters are ever-flowing.

Do not grieve,

drink your fill!

Don't think it will ever run dry--

This is the endless Ocean!”

Can’t you just feel his gratitude just oozing from his words?

And so, armed with the conviction that there is a universal substance that follows reliable laws such that we can create our lived experience with a combination of thought, emotion and faith, Butterworth turns us loose in the world.

And he tells us that if we want to have enduring success that is graced with a peaceful heart and delight, it won’t happen by chasing it in the external world, but instead by seeing ourselves in that place of success and aligning ourselves with principle, opening ourselves to the flow of substance and allowing ourselves to be guided by Divine Wisdom.

When my son was quite little, he decided he wanted his own little business. A lemonade stand wasn’t very effective for where we lived - maybe five or ten cars would pass all day. We talked about a variety of ideas, but none seemed quite right. But without a doubt he knew he would have his own little business.

Then one day we were visiting a friend and his mom mentioned that there was mistletoe growing all over her new property and that she was thinking of hanging some by her front door for the upcoming holiday. She casually mentioned that the right person could probably make a bit of money making fresh mistletoe decorations.

My son’s eyes suddenly lit up. That was it! We proceeded to gather mistletoe on her property, bought some red ribbon and spent hours assembling the bunches. We set up outside our local grocery store and who could resist a cute 4-year-old selling mistletoe? He raked in the moulah.

He started with a desire, filled it with expectation and excitement and trusted it would come. The universe responded with an idea that not one of us would have come up with on our own.

As we practice putting these principles into action in our lives, invariably we bump into internal objections. Our ego doesn’t relish change, and in order to make way for the new, we have to clear out the old.

And so, if you are either starting this work from a place of being in a pickle, or you find yourself in one after beginning this work, Butterworth gives us this: “In the face of any challenge, affirm: “I accept the reality of this situation, **but not its permanence.**” By continuing to deepen our new way of thinking, “this too shall pass.”

When we allow old limiting beliefs to play over and over like a broken record in our minds, we’re like a cart horse with blinkers on. We can’t see the fields of luscious grass flowing by on either side, only the dirty grey cobblestones in front of us.

It’s like walking around with a big old pipe over our heads but we have our finger jammed in it, plugging the hole so that nothing but a trickle can flow out. And it’s our own finger of limiting beliefs jamming it up with thoughts like, I can’t afford this. Nothing ever works out for me. I could never, and on and on and on.

If we were only to remove our finger, abundance would flow into our lives.

When I first began to break free of my limited programming, the first thing I would say with regards to finances, rather than ‘I can’t afford this,’ was, “This isn’t currently in my budget.”

And then I moved onto, “I choose to not spend my money in this way today.”

As I practiced this new language, I realized that often the thing that I coveted so strongly, I no longer wanted a few days or even a few hours later.

It became clear that sometimes my desire to have that something was actually a manifestation of my lack consciousness which drained my bank account and kept that same feeling of lack alive. I had the things that I no longer really wanted and now also not enough money. It was a vicious cycle.

That realization allowed me to start bypassing purchasing items I didn’t really want and soon my bank account began to grow along with my faith in these teachings.

Fear of failure is something else that might surface as you try on this new way of being. But “failure” is not only a part of life, it is a vital part of achieving success. “Failure” will happen. But is it truly failure or is it learning? I once read that it is the rare entrepreneur who hasn’t declared bankruptcy at least once. They don’t look at it as failure.

It’s like the story of Edison inventing the first lightbulb. The first 1000 bulbs didn’t work. Was that 1000 failures? Edison himself said that he didn’t consider them failures, he just discovered 1000 ways that didn’t work. He eliminated all the ways that didn’t work until he found the one that did.

We can do the same thing, and just making that shift in our minds from failure or mistake to “I learned something new today,” we can start moving our consciousness into a better position.

For example, we tend to say “I’ve got a problem.“ This evokes a certain feeling in us, usually related to degree of difficulty. It might even bring up feelings of helplessness or despair and almost certainly of “I wish this wasn’t happening.”

I think viewing the situation from the perspective of “problem,” almost always puts us in some degree of victimhood.

And then we evolved and thought it would be better to say, “I’ve got a challenge.” This was a step in the right direction, but it still feels like we have something to confront or overcome.

If, however, we use the word “project.“ This leaves us with a completely different connotation, and typically one that is more “positive,” and we can even get excited about working on it.

Same situation, just different words. Of course, this has nothing to do with the words themselves, just the meaning that we’ve attached to them from race consciousness and societal conditioning.

As I was preparing to dissolve my marriage, I was fearful about how I was going make ends meet. This was a “problem” mindset, and from there I couldn’t see a clear path.

But when I shifted my mindset from one of a “problem” of finances, to “how am I going to make this work?” ideas began to flood my experience, and it became exciting to figure it out and such a joy when the solutions became clear.

Butterworth writes, “The incident is external; the reaction is always your own. A financial crisis may have occurred, and it may appear that you are at the bottom financially, but it is still ‘out there.’ All that really counts is what is happening within you. How are you reacting to the experience?

“…Within you is a limitless, unborn potential of creativity and substance, and the present experience can be your great opportunity to give birth to it. ….the tragedy can become a blessing, the disadvantage can become an advantage, the failure can become an opportunity, and the disappointment can become ’God’s appointment.’”

No matter what is happening in the outer world, we always, always, always have full access to wisdom and creativity which can light our path into a new and more wonderful experience.

The last thing we’ll look at today is the notion of security. Many of us carry the belief that money is what make us feel secure. If we have enough money, we’ll feel secure. But is this true? I know many people who have oodles of money who live in fear of one thing or another, and certainly of losing their money.

Security will not be found in things.

The word secure comes from the words Se and cura which originally meant ‘free from care.’

Butterworth writes: “Security is more psychological than financial. …whatever financial measures we take, if we are motivated by fear or anxiety, then we mine our roadway into the future with booby traps. **It depends on what we’re thinking when we do what we do.”**

And so, the questions then arise. Is buying insurance, or putting money away in savings account, or investing in an IRA indicative of lack consciousness? And his answer is “it depends on what we’re thinking when we do what we do.”

When we lean into the awareness of the Allness of substance we become a channel for the flow of infinite mind. Here we feel secure. And from this place of inner security, we are guided to make decisions about investments and insurance and savings that are not lined with fear.

For example, rather than having an “emergency fund,” or a savings account for a “rainy day,” create an opportunity fund. This will allow you to take advantage of wonderful opportunities when they arise. Perhaps the opportunity to purchase a new water heater or perhaps come to the aid of a friend in need in another state, or to take a spontaneous vacation.

Your abundance is not out there somewhere, it is within you — and you hold the key.

I’ll end with Butterworth’s closing words for Chapter 8:

“I am secure, for I know who I am: a richly endowed child of God. I am secure in all I do, for I know my oneness with the divine process.

I am secure in all I have, for I know my treasure is in my mind, not in my things. I live my life from day to day as if God’s supportive substance were as exhaustless and dependable as the air I breathe, which it most certainly is.”