

WHAT IS NEW THOUGHT?

A historic look at some definitions of what is New Thought Christianity.
From Charles S. Braden's book *Spirits In Rebellion / The Rise and Development of New Thought*.

From a statement of purpose adopted by one of the earliest recognizably New Thought groups:

The Metaphysical Club of Boston, founded in 1895.

"First and most important, the belief that ideals are realities and that all primary causes are internal forces. Mind is primary, and causative, while matter is secondary and resultant. The children of men are living souls now, Children of God ... Spiritual citizens of a divine universe. As a method of healing bodily disease, and as a cure for social ills and a remedy for all defect and disorder is metaphysical, beyond the physical, in the realm of causes which are mental and spiritual ... it neither denies sickness nor pain ... but holds that they are not positive realities ... rather negative conditions, the lack of ease, of harmony, of health."

"As a philosophy of life, it takes for its fundamental reality the idea of God as immanent, indwelling Spirit, All-wisdom, All-goodness, ever-present in the universe as a warm tender Father, and not as a cold abstraction ... Evil can then have no place in the world of permanent reality and power. It is not denied that it exists now, but only as an accompaniment of incompleteness ... a negative quantity, the absence of good. Sin, and moral evil are largely an ignorant selfishness, ignorant of the Almighty Love under whose divine providence all things work together for good to those who obey its law."

"It believes in a divine humanity, a "human brotherhood with a divine Fatherhood." it is profoundly religious, it is non-sectarian. It teaches the universality of religion. It believes in present and progressive revelation of truth, but reverently acknowledges our debt to the prophets of God in all ages; especially in the Christian scriptures are found "clear and comprehensive statements of the truth that has power to bless, to liberate and heal ... It would proclaim to man his freedom from the necessity to belief in disease, poverty and all evil as a part of God's plan.

Without a formal creed, it stands for the practice of the presence of God, reduced to a scientific method, of living a selfless life through union with a power that is Love in action ... a power which can bring sweetness and light and peace to people; rob death of its sting, and pain of its poignancy; takes terror out of disease ... and crowns life with the joy and health and abundance which are the rightful inheritance of every child of God."

WHAT IS NEW THOUGHT?: Continued

From “What Is New Thought?” By Charles Brodie Patterson

“The religion and philosophy of new Thought has for its foundation Eternal Law. It rests on the Oneness of Life-God-Universe Life-Love-Intelligence in all, through all and above all. As opposed to ‘old thought,’ New Thought insists that the truth regarding life and its laws is to be found in man’s inner consciousness rather than in the study of phenomena.”

“Man’s real search is the discovery of his own soul, for there God lives and moves and breathes, even though man may be unconscious of it. We know God or ourselves as we are directed by Love and Wisdom in all our ways, for such knowledge causes us to yield personal will and to desire to live consciously in the universal life.”

“New Thought is neither church, cult, nor sect; it asks no allegiance to creeds, forms, or personality, and is nonracial. New Thought believes that the great need is not so much a theoretical Christianity as an applied one; that living the Christ life does not so much imply uniformity of creed or form, as being activated by the same inward Spirit, demonstrated by loving helpfulness to one’s fellows.”

From the first Constitution of the International New Thought Alliance:

“To teach the Infinitude of the Supreme One; the Divinity of man and his infinite possibilities through the creative power of constructive thinking and obedience to the voice of the indwelling Presence, which is our source of Inspiration, Power, Health and Prosperity.”

From New Thought Defined by Elmer Gifford:

“New Thought, he says, we think of as a science because Science is demonstrable and the knowledge of Truth is demonstrable. The adherents of New Thought worship God Omnipotent in whom ‘we live and move and have our being,’ and of which we are perfect individualizations. Our God is not an absentee God, but a Universal Mind and Spirit that all nature and finds its highest expression through and as the mind of man, revealing himself to man continually through the reasoning mind and the whispering inward voice of intuition. We teach men the unity of themselves and God, so that in the exaltation of their own spirit they may say as the Master, ‘I and the Father are one.’”