

# Quivering on the Brink

## A New Revelation



Mary Ebben Livingston

# Book Excerpts

## From the Introduction

There is one concept, one teaching, that I want to point out. I believe it is the most important teaching. It is the reality that a fragment of God lives within each morally conscious person. This "Divine Spark" or Spirit within us is termed the Thought Adjuster. He is called the Thought Adjuster because he adjusts our thoughts Godward. This explains how God has an intimate and personal relationship with each of us if we desire it. *The Urantia Book* taught me about the Thought Adjuster. Once that knowledge entered my consciousness, my life began to change. I began to *feel* the presence of God in my life like never before. Some of the Eastern religions teach that the Divine is within us. Christians have the teaching, "The Kingdom of God is within." But, I never understood that to mean, "God is within." No matter what religious background you may have, my greatest hope for you is that you find the very God that lives within you.

I am ordinary and I have written *Quivering on the Brink* for ordinary people. You do not have to believe the content of this book. It is the journey and exploring of new ideas and concepts that might assist you in expanding your understandings. My intention is not to convert or convince, but simply to aid you in your journey. I sincerely hope you enjoy *Quivering on the Brink*; I hope you find it life changing. May you experience more love in your life. And, may you more strongly feel the divine Presence of God within.

## From the View from the Brink

Revelation is a method used to save ages upon ages of time. It sorts and shifts the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit attainment. It fills in the gaps. It eliminates error. It restores lost knowledge of past epochal revelations.

Unlike other revelations, this most current revelation has been given to our world in the form of a book. The book I am speaking of was published in 1955, and I can almost say with certainty that you have never heard of it. The reason you have never heard of it is because there are no churches or temples; there is no clergy; there are no doctrines. And, there are no human authors.

But reading a million-plus-word book takes motivation and a lot of time. Even then, some of the concepts are complex and a stretch for even the most educated amongst us. For these reasons, I have written *Quivering on the Brink*. It is based upon the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Urantia, (pronounced you-ran'-chah), is another name for our planet. It is the name we are known by in the universe.

## **From Chapter 1. Spiritual Thought Adjusters**

God the Father dwells on Paradise but he also lives in the minds of his mortal children. An actual fragment of the Father lives inside the normal mind of every morally conscious person. The term "Thought Adjusters" was used because these fragments of God adjust our thoughts Godward.

It is the mission of each Thought Adjuster to represent, to be, the Universal Father. They are from the Father, and, they **are** the Father. They work to transform and raise the immortal souls of men up to the spiritual heights of Paradise perfection. They are vital to the mortal Paradise ascension plan.

The Adjuster is the divine universe reality that God is man's Father. The Adjuster is man's perfect cosmic compass. The Thought Adjuster always and perfectly points the soul Godward. He adjusts our thoughts Godward. He is the Divine Presence in man. He is the indwelling Spirit, the Light that dwells inside.

The mission and influence of the Adjuster should not be confused with your conscience. They are not directly related. Conscience is a human reaction. It is hardly the voice of God to the soul. Conscience, rightly, cautions you to do right. The Adjuster attempts to tell you what truly *is* right, when you are able to perceive his leading.

Before the arrival of an Adjuster, the ancestry and patterns of life of a mortal are reviewed. What you inherit from your parents and ancestors goes into a forecast. Intellect and spiritual capacity are also considered. Before the Adjusters volunteer to indwell a mortal mind, they have full knowledge of the mortal's potentials.

The Adjuster is very much interested in three areas.

- *Intellectual capacity.* Is the mind normal? Can the individual develop into a free will creature? Will wisdom have an opportunity to function?
- *Spiritual perception.* This concerns the birth and growth of the religious nature. What is the likely spiritual capacity of receptivity? What is the potential of soul?
- *Combined intellectual and spiritual powers.* To what degree do these two qualities combine to produce strength of human character? Combined, will they lead to the evolution of an immortal soul of survival value?

Adjusters cannot enter the mortal mind until it has been prepared. ...These connections are described in future chapters. Thus, the stage is set for the human mind to receive his or her Adjuster. However, the Adjusters cannot enter the mortal mind before he or she makes their first moral decision. This is usually around the age of five.

God and man are *directly* related. There are no beings lying between God and man. There are no powers or authorities functioning between the Adjusters and their human subjects.

*The soul of man is acquired through experience.* It is only through experience that you create your soul. As you choose to do the will of the Father, the Adjuster becomes the father of a new reality. Your mind is the mother of this same budding reality. And this new creation is called the soul. The Adjuster is the Father and your mind is the mother of your soul.

Eternal survival is dependent on the choosing of the mortal mind. Mind decisions determine the survival potential of the immortal soul. When the mind believes God, the soul knows God, and they *desire* God, then is survival assured. We could never do it alone. But, God our Father has provided for all our needs.

Poor intellect or a poor education is a handicap. Lack of culture or social status is a disadvantage. Low morals as a result of harsh conditions are difficult to overcome. But the presence of the Adjuster in a *believing* individual conquers human flaws. The indwelling of the Father's Adjuster makes eternal life possible for each of his children.

God has not set an imaginary bar that everyone must reach. There are no standardized tests for us to take. Growth is mandatory but growth is based on individual capacity. God never gives you more than you can handle. Your Adjuster wants you to succeed.

"Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will is captain." (UB 111:1.9) With your permission, your faithful pilot will safely carry you across the troubles of time. He will carry you through the limitations of space. He will take you to the very source of the divine mind and on beyond, even to the Paradise Father of Adjusters.

The success of your Adjuster in piloting you through the mortal life and bringing about your survival depends upon your decisions, resolve, and *faith*. All these efforts of growth become powerful influences. They aid in your advancement because they help you to cooperate with your Adjuster. They assist you in ceasing to resist. Adjusters succeed or fail in their task just as far as mortals succeed or fail to cooperate with the Adjuster. The Adjuster's plan is to move you along the ascension path. This is the path of perfection attainment. "The secret of survival is wrapped up in the supreme human desire to be Godlike." (UB 110:3.2)

"God has embarked upon the eternal adventure with man." (UB 5:1.12) If you embrace the leadings of the spiritual forces in you and around you, then you cannot fail. You will attain the high destiny provided by our loving Universal Father.

"Love is the dominant characteristic of all God's personal dealings with his creatures." (UB 2:5.12) Through the presence of the Father's spirit, the indwelling Adjuster, he keeps direct and loving contact with his children.

### **From Chapter 16. Eternal Life—The Beginning**

Developing a hearty soul during your life in the flesh will serve you through all of eternity. Your journey begins when you choose.

Choice and spiritual attainment, the ability to know God and the urge to be like him, are the characteristics of the soul. The soul of man cannot exist apart from moral thinking and spiritual activity. But, the soul of man is distinct from the Thought Adjuster. The Adjuster arrives at the same time the first moral activity of the human mind starts, and that is the occasion of the birth of the soul.

As a mortal, you begin your eternal life adventure when:

- You commit to doing God's will.
- You choose to follow the spirit guides within and around you.
- You strive to be God-knowing and Godlike with your whole heart.
- You truly desire eternal life.

The doing of the will of God is a willingness to *share the inner life* with God—to share your life with the Father's gift of the Thought Adjuster. Sharing is Godlike. Mortal children who follow the leading of their Thought Adjusters will, in time, know the will of God. Living the will of God is your eternal passport.

"The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: sincerity, more sincerity, and more sincerity. All men have these keys." (UB 39:4.14) We advance by decisions, decisions, and more decisions. The highest moral choice is to choose to do the will of God. If man thus chooses, he *is* great, though he be the humblest and least of mortals on Urantia.

### **From Chapter 21. Sonship with God**

The word sonship is not intended to be sexist. However, there is no appropriate English word that describes both sonship and "daughter-ship" with God. Sonship also means daughter-ship in these teachings. Males and females are equal in God's eyes.

Never, will a mortal change so much as to wipe out the trends we call male and female. These variations will always continue to interest, stimulate, encourage, and assist one another. The pilgrims who were once men and women will aid each other in the Paradise ascent. They will always depend on cooperation to solve universe problems and overcome cosmic difficulties.

Many earthly parents are not conscious of the impact they have upon their children. Many do not realize that they set the stage for their child's relationship with God.

A young child is fully dependent on his parents and home life. From his parents and home life, he learns *all* his early concepts—intellectual, social, moral, and even spiritual. The family represents to the young child everything he can first know of either human or divine relationships. The child derives his first ideas of the universe from the mother's care. From his earthly father he gets his first ideas of the heavenly Father. The child's later life is made happy or unhappy, easy or difficult, based on his early mental and emotional life. He is shaped by these social and spiritual relationships of the home. A human being's *entire afterlife* is hugely influenced by what happens during the first few years of existence.

But, remember that sonship is a *gift*. No child has to *earn* the status of son or daughter. "The earth child comes into being by the will of its parents. Even so, the child of God comes into grace and the new life of the spirit by the will of the Father in heaven." Therefore, sonship must be *received* as by a little child. You earn righteousness—character development—but you receive sonship by grace and through faith.

All growth is unconscious. Spiritual growth cannot be learned or lost, given or received. (UB 100:1.7) We cannot will ourselves to grow on any level. Yet, we can develop attitudes and perspectives, as well as habits, which favor spiritual growth. Although not a complete list, habits that favor growth and support your desire to be your spiritual best include:

- Awareness that a fragment of God indwells you
- Living in partnership—in the conscious presence of God
- Awareness that your fellows are also indwelt by God
- Recognizing the value of your fellows—seeing others as God sees them
- Sharing your spiritual life with your fellows
- Problem-solving through prayer
- Reflective meditation on cosmic meanings and divine values
- Avoiding selfishness
- Loving service
- Refusal to presume on divine mercy
- Sincerity
- Sonship with God

"The Spirit never *drives*, only leads. Are you a willing learner? Do you want to attain spirit levels and reach divine heights? If you sincerely desire to reach the goals set before you, "then the divine Spirit will gently and lovingly, lead you along the pathway of sonship and spiritual progress." The heavenly Father has lovingly provided for us. All we need to do is to accept, with grace, our rightful place in the Father's family.

### **From Chapter 25. Failure of the First Epochal Revelation**

To understand the [Lucifer] rebellion, it helps to know the difference between error, evil, sin and iniquity.

- Error is misunderstanding. It suggests a lack of mental sharpness.
- Evil is a lack of wisdom. Evil results in poor decisions, unbalanced thinking, judgments and actions. Both error and evil are unintentional.
- Sin is a conscious choosing to oppose spiritual progress. It is *knowing* what God's way (God's will) is, but choosing to do otherwise. Sin is spiritual poverty.
- Iniquity is persistent sin. It is sin that has become a habit. It denotes a loss of control. The personality will disintegrate as it reaches cosmic insanity.

### **From Chapter 32. The Third Epochal Revelation**

Machiventa Melchizedek was incarnated near the city of Salem. Salem would become known as Jebus, and then later as Jerusalem. It was nineteen hundred and seventy-three years before the birth of Jesus.

Abraham attended the Salem school at three different times. He finally became a convert and one of Melchizedek's most brilliant students. It was not by chance but by choice, that Salem was selected for the appearance of Machiventa. There were many factors such as trade, travel, and civilization. But, contact with favorable families was quite important. Favorable families would likely have children that would become leaders. Terah, the father of Abraham, proved this to be true. In this respect, Abraham may be regarded as chosen.

Man had believed that they were saved only by works—sacrifices and offerings. Now Melchizedek again brought the good news that salvation—favor with God—was to be had by *faith*.

### **From Chapter 37. The Life of Jesus**

Joseph was a thriving carpenter and contractor. He was able to provide many extras for his growing family of eight children. The children enjoyed travel, music lessons and instruments, as well as things like slates for writing. Both Mary and Joseph were devoted parents who provided an enriching home life for their children.

Jesus maintained his advanced studies under the guidance of his synagogue teachers. He also continued with the home education of his youngest brothers and sisters. All the while, he formulated plans to "be about his

Father's business." The future looked so bright. But, the affairs and plans for this Nazareth family were demolished. Joseph suffered an accidental death on one of his construction sites.

Jesus was barely fourteen years old. But, he took responsibility for his pregnant mother and his siblings, ages one through ten. Jesus was an excellent carpenter. But, the earning power of a 14-year-old could not support nine people and the baby on the way. They slowly slipped into poverty as Joseph's land holdings were sold off. Financial hardship was not the only problem. Before the age of 21, Jesus had declined an offer of marriage; he avoided political involvement, which turned many in his community against him; and he again dealt with death when his youngest brother, Amos, died.

Raising a family was not an easy task. Jude was a very difficult teenager. Jude avoided his financial duties to the family. He ran away from home and was even arrested once. Jesus had every chance to experience the problems faced by earthly parents.

#### **From Chapter 40. More of the Teachings of Jesus**

The fruits of the divine Spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are:

- loving service
- unselfish devotion
- courageous loyalty
- sincere fairness
- enlightened honesty
- undying hope
- confiding trust
- merciful ministry
- unfailing goodness
- forgiving tolerance
- enduring peace

Living a spiritual life greatly increases true self-respect. But self-respect is not the same as self-admiration. Self-respect is always coordinate with the love and service of one's fellows. It is not possible to respect yourself more than you love your neighbor; the one is the measure of the capacity for the other. The measure of the spiritual capacity of the evolving soul is your faith in truth and your love for man. The measure of your strength of character is your ability to resist holding grudges and brooding in the face of deep sorrow. Defeat is the true mirror in which you may honestly view your real self.

As you grow older and more experienced in the affairs of the kingdom, are you becoming more tactful in dealing with difficult mortals; are you more tolerant in dealing with stubborn fellows? Tact is the fulcrum of social leverage; tolerance is the earmark of a great soul. If you possess these rare gifts, over time you will become more expert in your worthy efforts to avoid all social quarrels. Such wise souls are able to avoid much trouble; trouble brought about by those who suffer from lack of emotional adjustment, those who refuse to grow up, and those who refuse to grow old gracefully.

Your secret of the mastery of self is bound up with your faith in the indwelling Spirit, which ever works by love. Even this saving faith you have not of yourselves; it also is the gift of God. As the children of this living faith, you are no longer the slaves of self; rather you are the triumphant masters of yourselves, the liberated sons of God. You show the [fruits of the Spirit](#) in your daily lives. The fruits of the Spirit are the essence of the highest type of dignified self-control; they are even the heights of earthly mortal attainment—true self-mastery. The spirit dwells within you. You are no longer slaves of the flesh but free and liberated sons of the spirit. The new law of the spirit endows you with the liberty of self-mastery; it replaces the old fear of the slavery of self-denial.

We do not have to see alike, feel alike or even think alike in order to *be alike* spiritually. Spiritual unity is derived from the consciousness that each of us is indwelt by the spirit gift of the Father. Uniformity is the earmark of the physical world. "Spiritual unity is the fruit of faith union with the living Jesus."

#### **From Chapter 44. The Fifth Epochal Revelation**

*The Urantia Book* holds the promise of a deeper personal relationship with God. Mankind needs to understand religion as **the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of mankind; this is sonship with God for each individual**. Sonship with God is the true religion of personal experience. This is the gateway to divine love.

Urantia is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing epochs. It is a time of social readjustment. It is a time of moral quickening. And, it is a time of spiritual enlightenment. Mankind is on the march! We are headed toward a new and unknown planetary destiny. There is need of preparation. There is need of deeper understanding.

Thank you for viewing this sample of the book

*Quivering on the Brink*

By

Mary Ebbin Livingston!

If you have any questions regarding the book you may contact the author through the comments section of the web page that led you to this sample or you can email the editor at [editor@tuscanskypublishing.com](mailto:editor@tuscanskypublishing.com)

All authors and artists participating on the Tuscan Sky Publishing web pages have put a great deal of work into their submissions. Please honor their efforts by respecting their copyrighted material.

They invite you to release your inner author or artist and join them in this new incubator designed for your creative spirit.

You can learn more by returning to the home page and scrolling to the  
**PROTOCOLS** link.

Peace be with you,

*EDITOR, Tuscan Sky Publishing*