



Welcome to...

The Development of New Thought

Session 2

Please sign in and make a name tag for yourself!





I AM NOW in the presence of pure Being, and immersed in the Holy Spirit of life, love and wisdom.

I acknowledge Thy presence and Thy power, O blessed Spirit; in thy divine wisdom I now erase my mortal limitations and from Thy pure substance of love bring into manifestation my world, according to Thy perfect law.

Charles Fillmore





*The Sources of
New Thought*





Plato

428-347 BCE

Plato's theory of forms tells us that behind everything that we see in the manifest world is the idea, or form of that thing.



Plato's "Forms"



The forms that we see, according to Plato, are not real, but literally *mimic* the real Forms. In the Allegory of the Cave expressed in Republic, the things we ordinarily perceive in the world are characterized as shadows of the real things, which we do not perceive directly. That which the observer understands when he views the world mimics the archetypes of the many types and properties (that is, of universals) of things we see all around us.



Aristotle

384-322 BCE

- ★ A student of Plato
- ★ Teacher of Alexander the Great
- ★ Defined Metaphysics as: “...the knowledge of immaterial being.”
- ★ The first to use the term, “Metaphysics”





Greek Poet, Solon:

The smallest hurts sometimes increase
and rage

More than all art of physic can assuage;
Sometimes the fury of the worst disease
The hand by gentle stroking will
appease.



Origen of Alexandria

185-254 CE

- * One of the greatest Christian theologians
- * Defined the “symbolic” meaning of Scripture
- * Apokatastasis ~ Universalism A belief that every creature would eventually be saved.





The Early Healers...



- 1) Petrus Pomponatius (16th Century): “Magnetism”
- 2) John Baptist Von Helmut: “Imagination”
- 3) Sir Kenneth Digby (1658): “Human Will”



Meister Johannes Eckhart



1260-1328 CE



- * German Priest and mystic.
- * Combined Plato, Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas with his own insights.
- * Panentheism ~ the belief that all of creation exists in God, but that the total of creation does not begin to exhaust what God is.





Emmanuel Swedenborg

1688-1722 CE

Swedish scientist,
philosopher, Christian mystic and
theologian.

* Warren Felt Evans, Ralph Waldo
Emerson,
Charles Fillmore--were fans.

* Church is still in existence.



Anton Mesmer

1734-1815



George Wilhelm Hegel

1770-1831





Transcendentalism

- 1) Intuition as a basic source of the knowledge of reality;
- 2) The essentially divine nature of man;
- 3) The fundamentally idealistic view of reality and the universe.





Two Major Themes

- 1) A practical concern about healing humanity's ills;
- 2) An idealistic philosophy, with definite religious overtones.

The metaphysical movement merged these two emphases.





Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson: Father of New Thought

“The measure of mental health is the disposition to find good everywhere.”

See quote on page 36.



Phineas P. Quimby, Founder

