

## DEVELOPING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

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*London medium Ronald Hearn is one of our most experienced exponents, and has demonstrated in various parts of the world. One of our most popular columnists, here, Ronald looks at the question of developing psychic gifts. "In order to encourage new mediums," he writes, "we certainly need to come up to date."*

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Everyone is psychic to some degree, but in the vast majority of people, it only expresses itself in the form of hunches, intuition or dreams maybe. Comparatively few are gifted enough to become mediums who are able to communicate with another dimension. Although many desire the ability, it is often for the wrong reason, the main one being a sort of fortune telling in order to make money. I have no doubt after many years of study and experience that we are born with certain gifts or abilities, but we cannot buy them or force what is not there in the beginning. Sometimes our gifts lay dormant and need coaxing or persuading, yet it seems there is a right and wrong time for everything. If we are meant to find full expression of our abilities, it will happen as and when it is meant to. There must be many gifted people unaware of what they can do, or who simply do not wish to pursue the matter.

With mediumship, it usually is quite a different thing. Once being introduced to the subject, most people become over anxious and try too hard, often resulting in a "moment of glory," but with nothing permanent or long lasting. If we were all mediums, there would be no need for sitters and people on the receiving end of messages in whatever form. So the greater plan usually balances out and we might well see that many are called but few are chosen.

Until now, the accepted form of developing one's gifts has been through classes or groups, known as circles. Led by a medium, a number of hopefuls have sat, often for many years, seeking to develop whatever gifts they might have. To be fair, I began my psychic career through the accepted form, as did many other mediums.

Fortunately, my gifts began to flourish almost immediately. Within six months I was working as a fully fledged medium, whence I have progressed

a long way through the experience of working at it. Many were not so fortunate as to develop much or anything at all. Probably many are still hoping!

In my first experience of mediumship and the psychic, I followed the pattern set down by our pioneers and for a time was content to do so. Suddenly, one day after giving a demonstration of clairvoyance at a fledgling meeting, an old man called Ben Herrington, who was quite well known in the Spiritualist movement, took me aside and gave me a talking to. Ben had observed I was showing great promise and thought I would have an outstanding future as a medium, but asked me why I felt obliged to do what most mediums did. My reply was that was how I had been taught. Ben insisted I should think for myself, use my own mind, consequently develop my own style and do it my way, according to how I would feel from within.

I owe a lot to that man because he set me thinking, and I found so much truth and direction in his advice. I then realized everything should be progressive, perhaps most of all Spiritualism. It disappoints me greatly that after many years as a medium and healer, I see no change or very little within the Spiritualist movement.

Having worked for many years within it, I felt my role was to be more outside of it, where one could get a more balanced outlook and find an even better way of helping people. Much good is done within the Movement. Churches and a religious routine are fine for those who feel the need for them, but in my considered opinion, awareness of the afterlife is a fact and not a religion. Once we find out for ourselves that there *is* such a thing, we can use knowledge of survival and our gifts in any way we feel directed. We can utilize them in a religious way or as I do now, which is to give everyone who seeks whatever evidence is possible, and let them use it as they feel they need to. Without mediums we would have no Movement, or any real awareness of the continuation of life.

At this time there seems to be a lack of good mediums: the older, established ones are passing on, and the younger ones are fired with new ideas, albeit not always the right ones. I have in the past dared to experiment with this subject, in order to see how far it can be taken. The results have been very rewarding, but it can be taken further, as we live in a world with different approaches and ideas, which is exciting if everything is used to the right advantage. We are obliged to bring things up to date if we are to survive, and new methods are needed. If we believe in what we are doing, we have little to lose, but far more to gain.

In order to encourage new mediums, we certainly need to come up to date as far as development is concerned. There isn't time for younger people to sit and wait; they need to drive in the fast lane. They do not have the dedication and discipline of the older ones, but it could come once they develop their gifts. We need to revise our approach to development. This I have done every successfully and helped quite a few to use their gifts accordingly. My contention is that if you have it, then you should be able to use it. Instead of sitting for a long time in a circle or class just waiting for it to happen, you can help make it happen by letting it out. God helps those who help themselves, though most people are afraid of making mistakes or looking foolish. There is a very fine line between clairvoyance and imagination. Most mediums in the early days of their career feel they cannot say everything that comes in to their mind, but unless they do, they will never know whether it is right or wrong. It takes courage to "have a go" and give exactly what comes through, but finally the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Development should not take so much time: you either have it or you don't. The best way to find out is to practice, which eventually makes perfect. Once one has instruction on the finer points, then it should be possible to stand and deliver.

Some years ago, a very well known medium told me how she started to demonstrate her gift. She had sat for quite some time in the circle of another veteran medium, who also ran a meeting for demonstrations of clairvoyance in her house every Saturday evening. My friend also lived at this place and tried to be helpful at the meetings, but until a certain point felt she would not develop any gift. On one occasion the medium booked to appear did not show up, whereupon the lady in charge told her that she would have to take the meeting and it would be her big chance to show what she could do. Naturally she was quite terrified and asked what she was supposed to do as she was not psychic and had no idea of how to begin. The teacher's reply was to get up when announced, point to someone in the audience and make up a story, to say whatever came into her head. This the trembling novice did...and was greatly surprised and equally delighted to find the recipient of the message could accept and understand all she said. Thus another splendid psychic career was launched.

This helps to demonstrate that the power of the mind is strong. Since everything has to work through the mind anyway, it merely becomes necessary to use common sense coupled with a sense of discipline and dedication, and the way ahead can be opened up. It should not take years of waiting, but merely requires what may already be there to be activated. It will always need a certain amount of instruction and advice, which can be given quickly and easily if the teacher also decides to try different ideas.

I do not imagine my ideas will be popular with the "old school," but we are living in a progressive world where there is a need to bring things up to date and advance. We have a wonderful knowledge and a great power if it is used correctly. There is only one way - and that is forward. There could be exciting times ahead, but we need to be prepared, and also to change our minds if necessary. Because we start off on one pathway with set ideas, there is no reason why we should not see when it is time to take a new road and have the courage to try to break old habits and search for the truth.

Everything in our lives is in the light of experience. The more we test and try, the more we find out. It is our duty to look within ourselves and discover what we have and what we can do with it. Time is always of the essence. It may be endless, but we should use our time in this allotted span to the best advantage.

So off with the old and on with the new! If we can take away the barriers in our minds, for that is the only thing that stops us progressing, then we may discover more than we realise, and it will open all doors.