



Monthly Lesson
April 2012

“Spiritual Foundation of Morality”¹

We’ve had several questions that we will answer in today’s lesson. I’ll start with this one: “Is morality an important step for spiritual growth?” Of course it is. The Master said, *“strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*² Narrow is the way for spiritual living because it allows for only one Self, but *“...wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction.”*³ The human broad view that “anything goes” will not support our spiritual growth. Jesus said, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill”*⁴ and to fulfill it with Love.

The culmination of Joel’s work, Living Between Two Worlds brings that point out: *“Now we have access to Infinity and there is no limit to what can be achieved through our understanding of the truth that we can reach the universal storehouse*

of the laws of Life: physical or material laws, mental laws, laws of nature, all those laws governing automobiles and airplanes, and laws governing new ways of raising crops. So we come to the age in which we will be able to live without limitation.

“When man recognizes that he has access to the entire cosmic realm, he will bring to light a whole new world, glimpses of which we have already seen in what has been accomplished in the last fifty years and which is only the beginning of a still greater era.

“But while the world was progressing from the physical realm of life to the mental, the religious life of man remained in status quo. True, during this time, there were mystics who revealed spiritual truths, but all too seldom did this find its way to the public. So until the religious mental sciences were brought forth, which were the mental aspect of man expanding and finding new principles, the majority of people have continued to live the religious life of four thousand or two thousand years ago with very few signs of any change. But just as inventors and scientists have found a whole new world through the mind, so metaphysicians have discovered the new world of mind applicable to phases of human existence other than invention and science.

“All this indicates progress. Then one day we awaken to the truth that the realm of mind we have discovered can be used for both good and evil. [We discover that the mind that can heal is

¹ 1991 Asilomar Retreat, Tape III (9106), Side 1

² Matthew 7:14

³ Matthew 7:13

⁴ Matthew 5:17

also the mind that can kill. It's very dangerous ground.]

“Access to the cosmic universal mind of man is a wondrous thing in one sense, but frightening in another, because whether or not these great discoveries are ultimately used for the welfare of mankind depends on the moral nature of man. And the moral nature of man with a few exceptions here and there has never been above that of self-interest, self-preservation, or self-profit.”⁵

I don't think there has been a time as dangerous as in the last ten years. For example, television has hypnotized children to the extent that they don't read great literature as children did in the past and they are often exposed to violence and immorality through the media. Everything is visual and very little of it develops their intellectual capacities. It is a struggle for many children to find their moral base; they have been told that freedom means doing anything they please to satisfy either body or mind. They are not taught a fundamental spiritual morality that ultimately leads to loving your neighbor as yourself. This is why our world work is always so important; we realize that when Christ enters human consciousness, it dissolves erroneous activity in us that only functions from self-interest and self-profit. It dissolves that selfishness in us

⁵ Quotes from Joel in this lesson come from the chapter, “The Nature of Spiritual Attainment,” Living Between Two Worlds by Joel S. Goldsmith

and we realize that if we hurt another, we hurt ourselves. How important our spiritual work is on the world work level!

“Only when a spiritual element enters the consciousness of an individual does he lose the capability to bring forth new forms for evil purposes but until man finds a way to bring the spiritual element into the consciousness of mankind, he is at the mercy of those who govern, control, or lead. We have already seen that in this era of unbelievable scientific discoveries, these great accomplishments have not lessened our fears or dangers, but rather have they increased them.”

When we first moved to Hawaii, we never locked our doors and we could walk on the street and beach at night but that is not true today. This is the case all over the world – there is license and not liberty. Joel continues:

“Most of us in the Western world are living with tiled bathrooms, electricity, air conditioning, and all the other comforts of life, but is mankind happier, safer or freer? In the free countries of the world, the private life of the citizens has come increasingly under government surveillance. Man is more controlled by his government today than he was fifty years ago, and he can never forget that if it is not his own government that is a threat to his personal liberty, there is always one just across the ocean or the border.” And we know now that our personal information and history is easily

available. There is less freedom today than ever because of recent inventions and discoveries. It is rather disconcerting unless we know that the only way to freedom is through regeneration and the entrance of Christ into your human experience.

“Today, we do have access to the mind; we have access to the laws that govern nature. The next step we must take is to gain access to the world of morals. I am not speaking merely of sexual morality, but of morality in its wider sense, of the morality that should govern business, art, literature, government, and all our human relationships. We must find access to total morality in order that these great discoveries may eventually be used by man solely for a productive and fulfilled life.”

To have a fulfilled life, Christ must enter human consciousness. When Christ enters, It dissolves self-destructive and selfish influences and opens the door so that we begin to fulfill not only our human potential, but our spiritual potential. We then have access to the realm of Love.

“It is only when an Element that is not human, that is neither physical nor mental, enters consciousness that our moral or spiritual capacity is developed. It is Something that renders it impossible for anyone to do evil to another consciously, or to work for the injury or the loss of others. The introduction of this Element into consciousness marks the beginning of a new era.”

Unless the moral growth equals the knowledge you obtain of the power of the mind to meet and restrain it, this developed power is to be dreaded. I think Mrs. Eddy said this; she knew this to be true from experience because her first practitioners did mental work and they used the word “you.” When someone came to them, they were taught to take the person into their thought and say “you” are spiritual, perfect, the child of God. When patients were healed and stopped coming, practitioners without that moral standard drew them back, picturing the same people in their minds and saying “you” need to come see me.

That is mental malpractice and it continues throughout the world today. When people say, “he hasn’t been well,” “she is 75, what can you expect?” – those statements are mentally going forth and hitting us. That is why we do protective work until we come under the full panoply of the Christ and we are hid with Christ in God. Until then, we are vulnerable to so-called laws of the calendar, food, climate, or genetics. When Christ takes over our life, It wipes out all those human frailties and we are protected.

Unless our moral growth equals the knowledge we obtain of the mind’s power to meet and restrain negative thinking, this developed power is to be dreaded. Mind should be protected as well as body. This is why we must know the truth that nothing can enter my mind that defileth or

maketh a lie. ⁶ Only that which emanates from Soul/Spirit in the consciousness of man is power. Mind should be protected as well as body. Any interference outside the moral law of the Sermon on the Mount is wrong. The law of truth and love written on the Soul is the governing motive.

“...Soul cannot be used for selfish purposes. ...Herein lies the secret of why so few achieve Soul consciousness.” ⁷ If we are going to be completely set free from the mental malpractice or hypnotism that is universally prevalent in the human mentality – the belief in two powers – we have to be alert, awake! Scripture says, “As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.” ⁸ So we awake to the right way, Love’s way of one power, one presence, one law, and one activity.

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” ⁹

⁶ See Revelation 21:27

⁷ The Infinite Way by Joel S. Goldsmith, chapter entitled “Soul,” 15th paragraph.

⁸ Psalms 17:15

⁹ Romans 13:8-10

Dear Friend,

Join me in an earnest study and contemplation of Chapter 2 in Living Between Two Worlds. In it, Joel writes, “If I cannot prove God in a measure for myself, I have no way of proving It for you.” This sets a standard for us to prove that when faced with problems we can “be still, and know that I am God,” ¹⁰ see the errors of personal sense dissolve, and witness right solutions appear in accord with “love thy neighbor as thyself.” ¹¹

This is the Easter of our life, living in spiritual consciousness free of all personalization. We know from experience that personalization is desolation and our freedom is in Christ. Everyday is our Easter for “...He performeth the thing that is appointed for me” ¹² and “The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me.” ¹³ We can say with confidence, “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” ¹⁴ Let us rejoice always in the risen Christ. Happy Easter!

Virginia

(

© Virginia Stephenson, 2012

¹⁰ Psalm 46:10

¹¹ Matthew 19:19

¹² Job 23:14

¹³ Psalm 138:8

¹⁴ Galatians 2:20