



Monthly Lesson
April 2014

“The Grace of Being”¹

In Joel’s July 28, 1963 hotel talk at the Princess Kaiulani Hotel,² he speaks of being commissioned in 1938 or 1939 by the Voice to seek the secret of the impersonal Christ and impersonal healing. In his diary of 1959, he wrote that the Voice said everyone who was attracted to the Message from that time on would be attracted by this impersonal Christ consciousness. *“I will draw those to this message. My Consciousness has now become the Consciousness of the Infinite Way.”* This is a tremendous Grace for each of us to contemplate. What drew us to this Message had to be that Christ consciousness based on the principle, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”*³

Just think of the corresponding linkage throughout the generations of all the mystics who have lived in this Consciousness, aware of their true Identity, keeping it silent and secret within themselves. This activity of the Christ has worked throughout the ages, culminating in this era today where there is so much

interest in spiritual truth and in living spiritual principles. It is possible that the greatest numbers of people ever are interested in mystical literature. Joel’s books and others dealing with spiritual principles are consistent sellers. We have a tremendous body of students who are looking for spiritual principles by which to live, and we are also possibly living in the most affluent society that has ever been known. Many of these people are searching for ways to help spiritually and many of them are not affiliated with any movement.

What is drawing them? It is this *I*: *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* As individuals, we cannot depend on someone else. We must *“Go, and do thou likewise.”*⁴ So lift up that *I* every day and realize that the solution to the problem of being is not found on the level of the problem. It is found in our realization of Oneness. Therefore, whenever a problem arises in our lives, we realize that there is sufficient grace in this *I* to meet this problem, to reveal harmony, to dispel the clouds of darkness and ascend into the silence of this infinite Being where we wait upon the Lord. We wait upon holy Stillness until revelation is given to us or until there is a release. Above all, let us release God. We recognize every day that God’s work is done and His Kingdom is come. We are not praying to God to do something. This is so important!

We also release man. The demonstration of the Kingdom of God does not depend on man *“whose breath is in his nostrils.”*⁵ So let us release man and

¹ 1986 Asilomar Retreat, Tape 2 (8635), Side 2

² Consciousness Transformed, the 1963-64 Hawaii Hotel Talks, Joel S. Goldsmith

³ John 12:32

⁴ Luke 10:37

⁵ Isaiah 2:22

release God. This leaves us back home, alone with our own Being and with Reality. Our world can be as wonderful as we want it to be – filled with peace, harmony and wholeness. We can experience ALL of God’s grace and no one can interfere with our demonstration because it is all done inwardly. No one can give us our demonstration or take it away; it is embodied in the word *I*. When we sit down to pray, let us release God. Let us not pray to God to do something but rather let us pray in the recognition of *I Am, God Is*. All already *Is*. Thy Kingdom is come; Thou art ever present.

Let’s turn to scripture: *“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should [stand in awe] before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.”*⁶ So the past, the present and the future are all *now*. Time is relative but *I Am* is absolute. In this Nowness, this absolute Reality, God made all that was made and said, *“Behold, it is very good.”* This is as true now as it was when the great mystic wrote the first chapter of Genesis. There is no lapsing from nor returning to God’s grace. Perfection *Is*. *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”*⁷ Perfection means completeness and we are complete in Oneness. *“I and my Father are one.”*⁸

God’s grace is eternal and immortal and It is operating now. If we are not experiencing this divine Grace, it

⁶ Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

⁷ Matthew 5:48

⁸ John 10:30

means that we are not identifying wholeheartedly with the truth that *“I and my Father are one.”* So regardless of the appearance of your body, or the way you appear to feel or to be, this universal, impersonal principle is operating the same yesterday, today and forever. *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*⁹

*“There is only one body – here is the secret of secrets. There is only one body – the body of God, of which your body is the infinite reflection. As a reflection in a mirror exactly images forth your body, so does your body actually and exactly image forth the body of God. The body you behold with your eyes is your individual concept of the perfect reflection of the eternal body.”*¹⁰

As the image and likeness of God, we are one with God and we have dominion. It is a state of Grace, ever present, awaiting our recognition that *“Is alone overcomes the world.”*¹¹ We cannot take our problems into this state of Grace because It knows no problems! It is this very fact that *I Am that I Am* knows no sickness, sin or death that we can be assured that this divine Grace is our sufficiency in all things. I think my entire life hinges on this truth and no other: *“My grace*

⁹ Genesis 1:26-27

¹⁰ For additional study, see Consciousness in Transition, “Ordination,” Joel S. Goldsmith

¹¹ The Infinite Way, “Wisdoms of the Infinite Way, Joel S. Goldsmith

*is sufficient for thee.”*¹² Not only is it my sufficiency but it is also the sufficiency of everyone who comes to me. I recognize that they have the same Grace.

The love that you feel toward that Companion, the Beloved who unites and binds us in peace is the most precious love there is. About four years ago, I was giving a class in England, and my body seemed to respond poorly to the cold. It was the first day of the class and I had a runny nose, a sore throat, and I couldn't talk. I was very embarrassed, but I acknowledged the appearance to the class and asked them to give me some help. Instantly in the Silence, we felt the Holy Spirit so strongly that it lifted the fever and discomfort. Afterward, a woman came up to me and said, "I have been deaf for five years and during that meditation, my ears opened and I can hear!" I thought of that spiritual cliché, "what blesses one, blesses all."

So we never know what is necessary or what another person has, but there is nothing so powerful as a student body that unites and knows the truth that there is only one Power, one Presence, one Law, one Cause and one Activity. We demonstrate that by entering into the stillness of My Peace and watching the discord disappear. This is a gift of Grace.

Right now, let's take that particular phase of our teaching work and enter the stillness because there may be others we know with problems. The name or nature of the problem does not matter; we know according to our teaching that all problems stem from

a universal hypnotism based on the belief in two powers. The belief might be that there is good or bad weather, that cold weather is harmful or warm weather is not, or vice versa. Or the belief might be that some organ or function of the body is responding to the universal belief in two powers, good or evil. The belief might be that there is power in the realm of effect. Let us now recognize that this exists only as a universal belief through common consent that there is power for good or for evil in the world of cause and effect.

Now let us take the principle that there is only one Power and that is Spirit, God. This Power is Omnipresence; there is no place where it begins or ends. It is like the air we breathe. It is universal, omnipresent and embodied as the word *I*. So we are never separated from this Presence and Power. All we have to do is to bring the word *I* to our awareness and we have recognized the Power as the Presence of God. Do that right now. If you have a problem yourself, realize that in this silence, there is the Grace of God operating to release you and me from any problems.

Joel says that problems are opportunities so this is our opportunity to know the truth and practice the presence of God. When the Christ peace is felt, It goes out into human consciousness and dissolves all material sense. You and I at this moment are living in My Peace. *"My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."*¹³ This is the only peace there is. The cessation of wars or agreement among men is not a foundation for permanent peace. The

¹² See 2 Corinthians 9:8

¹³ John 14:27

foundation for peace is when Christ enters human consciousness and dispels that material sense that is a state of warfare, a belief in good or evil. When that belief in good and evil is dispelled from human consciousness, the warfare in the body or home ceases and peace is established.

So now we have established what the Master called My Peace. My Peace is an activity of My Grace and My Joy, a joy that no man can give and no man can take away. So in My Presence is My Peace and My Joy, the essence of our true Identity, the essence and substance of spiritual Being. Paul said, *“For to me to live is Christ.”*¹⁴ He meant that when we give up the belief in two powers, the warfare is over. When his disciples returned from healing the multitudes, Jesus said, *“rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*¹⁵ In other words, say not that you healed a disease, but say that the perfection of Being is here and now.

What a difference this attitude makes when we recognize there is no material claim to vanquish. Instead, we see through the appearance to the perfection of Being. *“For...their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”*¹⁶

¹⁴ Philippians 1:21

¹⁵ Luke 10:20

¹⁶ Acts 28:27

Dear Friend,

Many years ago when I was in Honolulu to study with Joel, he asked me to purchase the Dictionary of All Scriptures and Myths by G. A. Gaskell. This book helped me to understand the meaning of ancient religious texts and symbols.

If it is not in print, you can probably get a used copy from Amazon.com for your reference work. If you are unfamiliar with various religious symbols, this will help to clarify spiritual ideas. Of course, the ultimate Teacher is within us. Emmanuel: God with us.¹⁷

Aloha,

Virginia

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¹⁷ See Matthew 1:23