



Monthly Lesson
August 2013

“God’s Divine Plan”¹

A question on the table asks, “Does will power or goal setting have a role in the spiritual way of life?” Will power has a role if we adhere to the principle of one power - God is One, “I and my Father are one.”² Then God’s will for me is my will for myself because there is only one Will. If we are thinking of “will power” from the standpoint of the human (“I’ll do what I want regardless of anything or anyone else”), then we might have to suffer, and we often learn through suffering. But if we realize that there is only one Will, God’s will, we will see that God’s will for man is good will. When we have a sense of good will, or want to go in a certain direction, we recognize that there is only one will, God’s will, and then if that direction is wrong, we will see it before we suffer and we will know whether we are using human will or it is God’s will within us impelling us forward.

Regarding goal setting, the goals we set in the human scene are very limited and finite. There is really only one goal that God has set: *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it*

*more abundantly.”*³ How can we have a goal greater than that? Think about it – God’s goal for us is that we shall be abundantly satisfied. *“I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”*⁴ We are really not doing away with will or goals, but recognizing that our human ideas are finite and limited because we don’t know what God has in store for us. We take one step at a time, always attuned to *“Thy will be done.”*⁵

When I came into the Infinite Way, I had been in the metaphysical healing practice and had been teaching Bible courses. When Joel insisted that I speak on the Bible at his 1962 Honolulu class, it was certainly not my will. I had never had the goal of being a teacher such as Joel was, but evidently this was God’s will because it was what unfolded. I think there are many students who would make wonderful teachers but they are hindered because their group has not recognized their talent or asked them to teach. However, if you ask someone to teach and they refuse, that is their choice. With God, all things are possible; if you are asked, make the effort to share what you have.

In all spiritual living, the voice of Wisdom says to you, “What have you in your house? What can you give? What can you share?” Then the principle is what you give multiplies. You may think you have a very limited, finite sense of Truth, but as you share what you have, you are given more and you begin to

³ John 10:10

⁴ Psalm 17:15

⁵ Matthew 6:10

¹ 1993 Gold Coast Class, Tape I (9310), Side 2

² John 10:30

see how many ways these principles have functioned in your life. So this is a very important principle – your supply of good never comes TO you, but always comes FROM you. God has incarnated Himself IN you and AS you so there is no limit to the good that can flow from you. It is only necessary to recognize and give grace the opportunity. In fact, we exist at the standpoint of opportunity because God's will for us is good will. His will is *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*⁶

So I don't think goal setting is necessary but it won't hurt anything. Children need to be motivated, so we do need to see to it that they have resources of intelligence and can respond to challenges. We teach them that life is an adventure and that they have unlimited wisdom, love, peace and joy – this is all embodied in their consciousness. We teach them that as problems arise, they can start to pour what they have. For example, if they have a problem getting along with others, we teach them to recognize that there is only one Self, and the command is, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*⁷ But these things must be practiced in the home; they are not academic. A child learns by example and by what he sees in the home.

So if you are seeing your child as God incarnate (*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*⁸), then you will remove the finite limitations on that

⁶ John 10:10

⁷ Matthew 19:19

⁸ John 1:14

child and he or she will go forward freely. In "this world," the belief in two powers is operating in human consciousness and the emotional nature is one of desire and fear. There is desire to achieve and fear that we won't. There is desire to have "things" and fear that we won't. Desire is always coupled with fear. When you encourage a child (or an adult, for that matter) to go beyond his concept of himself, he may become angry with you. But we recognize that this anger is fear, and we are not disturbed by it. This fear is a call to Love and a call to know the truth that is freedom from any judgment or condemnation. We do not respond to that anger but recognize that it is operating in the human consciousness as universal hypnotism. When we see an angry person, we realize that he or she is deeply afraid. We silently realize that God constitutes that person's being and there is nothing to fear. As we continue to do this, we will see that peace comes and reason prevails. If a man, woman or child is bound with fear, breaking those fetters takes great patience and love, and we must really understand where they are coming from.

As I developed spiritually, I realized that whenever I became angry and really examined it, I could see that the root of my anger was fear. As a child, I was afraid to travel, but my family relocated often with my father's job. A child likes to be settled and I hated moving and travelling. When I married, I found that Arthur liked to travel and I would make every excuse not to go on vacation because I would be so angry about the disruption to my routine. As I meditated and attained a quieter mind, I stopped responding to the challenges and became an

observer. I realized I did not have to accept this hypnotism and fear of change. Just by standing still and observing, I realized that fear had power only when I personalized it. When we come to that place of stillness where there is no fear, hypnotism, or interior dialog, we see that *“where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*⁹ This is absolutely true. When we have that wonderful space in our mentality where there are no thoughts, we are free from the aggressive mental suggestions of this world that operate as self-hypnosis.

So meditation is the way to your freedom and it is much better to meditate 25 times a day for one or two minutes than to force a long period of stillness. There are ways, such as in yoga, where the focus of the mentality can be narrowed until a trance-like state is achieved. But that is not freedom because there is no spirit of the Lord in this. We are not trying to control the mind through concentration but through self-knowledge and understanding. We observe what enters the mind (an avenue of awareness), and then we are able to recognize when the spirit of God is upon us - then the mind is infinite and unconditioned. There can be all kinds of external noise in the outer world, but we are in a wonderful state of freedom. This is spiritual activity: *“where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*

The unconditioned mind is not dead, concentrated, or in a box - it is infinite. Of course everything of this world is in this Consciousness that we are, but from Consciousness also flows a great peace and

⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:17

understanding. However, peace doesn't flow out into the world until we have overcome reacting to this world. That ability comes in degrees, and the first step is to have those wonderful spaces in the mind that grow larger and larger.

When I was teaching John, I told him that the mind is an avenue of awareness. On this avenue, there are many thoughts travelling; some thoughts are good and some are bad. We don't get into these thoughts, but just observe them. This activity is much like watching cars on the freeway. Some thoughts will be fearful thoughts about yesterday or what could happen tomorrow – we see those as dilapidated little cars on the freeway and we don't get into them. Other thoughts about future good are like big luxury cars on the freeway, but we don't get into those either. *Now* is the only time we have – *now* is the time of freedom. John and I practiced this repeatedly and he never forgot it.

This self-knowledge gives us dominion over our thoughts and we learn not to react. We begin to practice patience and peace, and we find that on the freeway of the mind come spiritual ideas that teach us. We are fed from within and that is what is meant by *I am the meat, the bread, the wine*. The Master taught, *“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”*¹⁰ We go back to this idea of will and can say, *“Thy will be done”*¹¹ in me, through me and as me, until there is no me – only thee. Then we might find that we are very committed and appear to the world to have a strong

¹⁰ John 4:34

¹¹ Matthew 6:10

will. But it will not be our will but God's will because God is living our life. We will not be doormats but will be decisive, calm, and clear. We will know the difference between the true and the false, and we will know when we are hypnotized and when we are not. And that is our passport to freedom, isn't it?

Every time we identify with our body, our thoughts or our mental education on the human level, we lock ourselves into a box. It is only when we know that Infinity is the measure of the mind, and the measure of Consciousness and being that we realize that we must be a beholder and watch what Consciousness will do. When someone calls me for a healing, I know that the person coming to me is God appearing as individual being. They don't know it yet or they would not have accepted this problem. I know that God constitutes their being and is the health and wealth of their being. And I know that the entire human picture is illusory – a distorted picture of the Real. Therefore, if I get still and absolutely free of that picture, I can bear witness to its non-power. Then I bear witness to the omnipresence of God.

The Master said, *"My Kingdom is not of this world."*¹² This world is a mental projection of a spiritual reality. If we are at peace, in recognition of our oneness with the one infinite Consciousness, and our mind is free from hypnotism of good/evil, then we will see a more perfect concept of God's world. And as we purify our mind of two powers, our concept of this world will grow lovelier in our experience, reflecting more of "My Kingdom."

¹² John 18:36

Dear Friend:

God is an experience. Inner peace is a God experience. As we maintain inner peace, we neutralize the warfare operating in human consciousness; warfare in the political scene whether local or international. To bring peace wherever we go is to open the door of human consciousness to God's government and solutions to human problems.

Let us make a conscious effort to maintain inner peace and poise so that wherever we go, we bring peace and good will. This is the function of the Christ, of living the infinite way. "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."¹³

Aloha,

Virginia

© Virginia Stephenson, 2013

¹³ John 14:27