



Monthly Lesson
December 2012

“Rise Above Symbols”¹

There are several questions on the desk: “Is it appropriate to remain in an unfulfilling job situation? When is it appropriate to leave? How can one know if one’s motives for leaving are pure, if, in fact, the lesson would be in staying?” You have answered your own question, haven’t you? Fulfillment is not only external, but is also in your realization of your oneness with God. God is fulfilling Himself as you. Spiritually, you exist at the standpoint of fulfillment and you only need to “open up the way for the imprisoned splendor to escape.”² Your fulfillment is actually the degree to which you can pour love into whatever you are doing so that you recognize that the Christ of your being is Love and It is fulfilling Himself through you and as you.

Your interior life or activity is much more important than what you do in your outer life. Brother Lawrence’s story tells that. As a lay brother in a Carmelite monastery in Paris, he had a humble job but he poured his love and recognition of the Presence of God into what he was doing, and this brought him great fulfillment. My interior life began when I left the business world to become a

mother and homemaker, and that was a big change for me at the time. I had a very enlightened practitioner who was reading Joel’s work, and she taught me to practice the Presence of God. I remember that when I ironed shirts, cooked, washed dishes, sewed, and so on, I would recognize that my hands could not move themselves but that this was really Love in action, Love perfecting, and Love performing. Then I began to enjoy it and really became a homemaker; there was no resistance or resentment toward the many tasks that had to be done.

So if you have a position that you do not find fulfilling, start to fulfill it with My Peace, My Joy, and recognition of that One, expressing Himself to Himself and as Himself, and watch what happens. If you practice the Presence, you will be a Light in the situation and everyone will recognize that Light that you are.

“Is it possible to listen to the Father within all the time?” Yes! There is one area of your consciousness that can always be attuned to the Kingdom of God within no matter what you are doing. If you are washing dishes, typing, or gardening, this area of your consciousness can remain attuned – Joel called this “the inner ear,” your channel of alertness. You can stay attuned without looking odd to those around you; you do not have to close your eyes or strike a particular pose to listen. You are a many-faceted being and can train yourself to stay open to the fourth dimension. When you do this, you must remain very fluid; you might be told to stop and change your course of action. That is being attuned to the Infinite and bringing yourself under the rhythm of God. Always remember that the Consciousness that you are is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient. It is always functioning whether you are asleep or awake,

¹ 1991 Asilomar Retreat, Tape VI (9109), Side 1

² Ralph Waldo Emerson

so if you are attuned to It, you can be guided, directed and protected.

“When you have finished your contemplative meditation, have entered the Silence, are listening for the ‘still, small voice,’ and thoughts come in to disturb, do you just observe them?” Yes. “Is it alright to say the words ‘God,’ ‘Peace,’ ‘Rest,’ or ‘I’ when you are supposed to be listening?” You can do that if it helps as long as you don’t engage in an argument with yourself. True non-resistance is not expecting God to function in the human scene and mental realm. Just empty out the vessel and let those thoughts go. If you don’t resist or pay any attention, those human thoughts wind down. If you say words over and over, you may develop a resistant attitude and be drawn in, so it is better to rest and be an observer - just let those thoughts come and go.

Focus on the stillness -- that inner ear is open and what you are observing is the thought stream of the human mentality, like shadows on a wall. There is no substance or activity there; it is the emptying out of the human mentality. Then that gentle Presence will be apparent, and you will feel that lovely rest. *“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.”*³ You feel that rest, and when it is over, do not try to prolong it or make it return. Get up and do what you have to do. One minute of divine Consciousness is Eternity in the Now – you do not measure it by time. It is quite remarkable when people can rest in Consciousness and feel this gentle Presence, Peace and Love. When you have been taken over by this Presence, it is a gift of Grace and Love, so don’t try to interfere with It. It varies, coming easily sometimes and not others. When

³ Hebrews 4:9

you do not feel It, get up and go about your business. God is still on the field. Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience are still working, so you don’t have to be disturbed. When you think not, *“Behold, the bridegroom cometh,”*⁴ so to be undisturbed by the jarring sense testimony is very important. The human scene has no God or power in it. It is just a moving picture show, a world of mental projections, sometimes good, sometimes bad, but always erroneous. Rest in the inner Kingdom.

Another question asks why Emma called a physician when Joel had a heart attack during his last days. Joel asked Emma to do this because they were in a foreign country where passing on without a physician can be very difficult, possibly requiring an autopsy and a lot of paperwork. During his last class, Joel had a meditation in which he saw the reality of his own Being -- he was robed and crowned and carried a scepter. He knew he was making his transition and told Emma that his work was done and that he would be leaving. He had been experiencing a heart condition for a year and a half before that. He really demonstrated that the heart does not control Life, but that Life controls the heart. He was living by Grace and it was wonderful to see his demonstration.

Joel was a very intelligent, practical man and calling a physician was a wise precaution. He wouldn’t go around with a toothache and neither would I. I go to the dentist regularly and, if I need to, I go to an oculist. I haven’t gone to an internist because I haven’t had a need, but if there were something drastic, I wouldn’t

⁴ Matthew 25:6

hesitate. After all, *“My kingdom is not of this world.”*⁵ If we temporarily need the help of a loving physician, it is not necessary to suffer at all. In this world, there are provisions made for us. Someone asked about vitamins. I very seldom take anything of this kind because there are so many healthy, delicious foods that are good vitamin sources. But when we are emerging from the world of material sense, we go gently. We don't demand of ourselves that we go beyond our understanding. I picked up my copy of Living Between Two Worlds, and I had written a Bible quote in it:

*“My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation. Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble. Cleave unto him, and depart not away, that thou mayest be increased at thy last end. Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate. For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity. Believe in him, and he will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in him.”*⁶

People often ask me about initiations. This entire human experience you are living is an initiation. Every day you are meeting the challenge: Whom do I serve -- Spirit or material sense? As you progress, you will be tried, purified, and freed of all personal sense in the furnace of fire. It is a furnace of humiliation – you may feel that you are strong, but you may find out you are strong only when you are weak. *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”*⁷ As this transition takes place from the man of earth (personal

sense) to the man who has his being in Christ, there is a shift from a dependency on outer forms to trust in the Infinite Unseen.

So go gently forward in your spiritual life – don't force it. Let Spirit carry you. If you use human will, force, desire or ambition, then you will experience crucifixion. But if you go gently so that the ego is gradually dissolved, you will stand revealed in God. Try to take little steps to wean yourself from dependency on outer forms. Then when something more demanding comes along, call a practitioner to stand with you, and you will find it will be much easier. Jesus had the humility to ask his followers to stand with him in his hour of need. As far as using medications or doctors, you are the only one who can decide what is right for you, and you cannot force it. *“...by strength shall no man prevail.”*⁸ It is only in our humility that the demonstrations are made. Then we say: “Father, I've done all that I can, I've known every truth I can know, I've meditated and I've contemplated -- now I must release the entire picture as illusory, and I must also release You and be at peace.”

We must release God because God does not enter the human scene. When we come to a place where we are at peace in the realization of one Presence and one Power, we let God's will be done, finished and complete. And when we let go, whatever the difficulty may be, the mirage vanishes. As long as we “work” on a problem, humanly or even metaphysically, it “sticks” to us like glue. But when we release God, release the problem, and release ourselves from all condemnation and judgment, the problem disappears.

I have one more question here: “Many times Joel says we must be careful not to entertain false concepts of

⁵ John 18:36

⁶ Ecclesiasticus 2:1-6 (Included in Apocrypha, also known as Sirach)

⁷ 2 Corinthians 12:9

⁸ 1 Samuel 2:9

God. How can we be sure we are not doing this?" When we teach, we are presenting imagery and concepts; these help us catch the idea, but we must go beyond them. Often symbols are easier to use than language and explanation, but as we grow spiritually, we educate ourselves out of a dependency on symbols, imagery and concepts -- persons, places, things, or ideas. One illustration of this is the Trinity of Being. This concept is currently presented in orthodoxy as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus' message was taken into Rome, the people there recognized similar Roman symbols or gods. As the world became more illumined, we found that the words used for the Trinity were Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience. In metaphysics, the words used are Life, Love and Truth.

All mean the same – the Triune Principle. The Lord's Prayer says "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." ⁹ This Trinity is a Divine Principle operating in Heaven (the Invisible); the Father is the creative Principle, invisible Life, Omnipotence. When this creative Principal is formed, it is a gentle Beam of living Love, Omnipresence. The activity of that Love is embodied as individual being – and that is the One Body that is unseen and invisible to the human senses.

The activity of this wonderful Triune Principle releases us through Truth (Omniscience) and Love (Omnipresence), and reveals to us that "each has All" and that we are complete in this Trinity of Being. To be consciously aware that "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" ¹⁰ is our new birth and our Christmas Joy!

⁹ Matthew 6:10

¹⁰ Galatians 2:20

Dear Friend:

In Living Now, Chapter 12, "Peace on Earth," Joel says, "Christmas is a revelation of your divine sonship, of the immaculate nature of your being...Christmas reveals the necessity of understanding the universal nature of spiritual being, the immaculate conception of all being, because of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. This cannot come while we are thinking of ourselves as human beings of different races, religions and nationalities. This can come only when we 'call no man (our) father upon the earth: for one is (our) Father, which is in heaven.' " ¹¹ As we have just finished a very divisive election process, it will be our joy as students of the Christ Message to live this Christ activity and support this truth until there is complete receptivity to it. This is our Christmas gift of recognition and acknowledgment that "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." ¹²

Please study the Living Now chapter mentioned above. May your Holidays be filled with Joy and Peace,

Virginia

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¹¹ Matthew 23:9

¹² Mark 1:24