



Monthly Lesson
December 2013

“No Time, No Space”¹

(This lesson was updated by Virginia and the original opening of her talk was deleted.)

Christmas is not an event that takes place in time and space, but is the Now activity of realizing the Divinity of our being. The blessed "I" was never born and never dies. "Before Abraham was, I Am."² At Christmastime, we honor this Presence of divine Love as the coming of the Light to human consciousness that brings peace, love and good will to all mankind.

Mary said so beautifully, "*My soul doth magnify the Lord.*"³ Our Soul never saw Christ as being born or dying but as Omnipresent. Without this faculty of spiritual discernment, the Christ is not recognized. When we live on the level of material sense, we see the Christ-coming as the babe, Jesus, subject to birth, growth, maturity and death, whereas the Soul sees that the Christ is always here and now, Omnipresent. So as we cultivate living in the blessed Now, we are aware of the

ever-presence of the Christ, and aware of birth and death as symbols in the Adam dream world.

The Infinite Way is progressive as we awaken from the Adam dream, and our spiritual experience unfolds in degrees. When Lorraine Sinkler was the editor of Joel's letters, they always followed a progression through the three degrees. They focused on the first degree during the first three or four months of the year. Then, the June to September or October lessons covered the second degree, and the lessons for the end of the year covered the third degree. So the full spectrum of development was covered in that way.

In 1961, Joel gave a wonderful talk on "A Parenthesis in Eternity" which later became a book. When the book was published, Joel felt it represented the ultimate of his spiritual experience. This book is developed in three degrees. So when you read the book, you will see that the degrees are separated. The book deals not so much with healing but with our experience – awakening from the Adam dream. Life is God; Life is an experience of wholeness and completeness. It is not a theory but is lived. We are either living Love (God is living us), or we are struggling as a personality identifying with a body and its limitations. If we can get out of the body identification and into God, then we live a spiritual life that is a life by Grace. However, as long as we identify with the body, we are living in the parentheses, the Adam dream.

¹ 1993 Gold Coast Class, Tape III (9312), Side 2

² John 8:58

³ Luke 1:46

Imagine a circle that encompasses not only the universe but also the galaxies. This circle is a symbol of eternal life and eternal love that is experienced in Soul. For example, a wedding ring has no beginning or end and it is a symbol of eternal love. The mystical marriage is the wedding of Soul and Spirit. We can either live in the Circle of Eternity in the mystical union or live in the parentheses of time and space – it is how we identify. If we identify as body, sex, race or age, then we are living in the parentheses and the spiritual life is something we long for but never experience. Whereas, when we leave this physical frame of reference out of our thought and enter the Circle of Eternity as a living soul, then Consciousness, Spirit, lives Itself. *This is the mystical marriage.*

Moving from the physical frame of reference into the Circle of Eternity, the Soul realm, represents a shift from doing to *being* and from accomplishing to *acknowledging* and realization. But we can't make this shift based on our desire to do it – it is a gradual loving process of enlightenment called growth in grace and truth. Joel realized that we really live between these two worlds – there is a coming in and a going out. We can't be so absolute and abstract with our families and friends that we can't relate to anyone, so "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*"⁴ When we are in a family or other situation where people are not interested in truth, we make a concession to relate with them on their

⁴ John 15:13

level within the parentheses, all the time knowing that there is no power to this physical level or to words or thoughts when Soul is seeing.

If we are meditating and getting into the "nowness" of Being, we are lifting up that "I." "*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*"⁵ As we gradually live these truths, we will find that we live more in the Circle of Eternity on the Soul level than we live on the personal level. This takes us out of relationships where we don't communicate well; the language of Spirit is a new and different tongue, so it seems we can no longer relate to people who are locked into the mental "box" of personal sense. We make that adjustment in ourselves, not by condemning them, but by realizing that they are living within the parentheses. We recognize the truth of their being – their wholeness is within Soul, the Circle of Eternity. And we recognize that even when we have "*laid down our life*" to chat with them on the mental level. We are recognizing that this is within the dream world of the parentheses and we are undisturbed by the political scene, disease, and other physical phenomena.

I remember when we were a young family and this realization dawned on me. I knew that where I really wanted to live was in the "great Forever" of Soul. At that time, I didn't use the term Circle of Eternity. I happened to have a practitioner who was nurturing me to overcome myself, that self that reacts to all the little nitty-gritty of every day.

⁵ John 12:32

She said, “You have a 4-year-old and a young working husband and you can’t live in an ivory tower, or take a position that you have not yet grown into. You have caught a glorious glimpse of the infinite nature of Being, but now let’s make the Word flesh.”⁶ When you are undisturbed by everything in your household, when you can laugh, be joyous and absolutely untouched in the face of irritation, discord, or sickness, then you will have graduated to the next stage.” At that time, I was active in various community clubs but found that I could not continue in any of these things because I was not interested anymore. I had caught a wonderful glimpse of My Kingdom and the realm of Soul where there is no discord, disharmony, or disease. I had realized that the only place that discord existed was in the mind of man, the arena of conflicting forces – the Adam dream!

One day, a neighbor who attended my church collapsed. Another neighbor called me to tell me that the person who had collapsed had called for me. At that particular time, I was working in the kitchen, observing Consciousness as it moved me to do the tasks that I had resented in my humanness. I had been a businesswoman before I became a mother and here I was doing housework. But I was working on overcoming resentment and boredom – I was seeing that even my ironing and cooking were activities of Consciousness. I found I could work very hard but was not tired because there was *no resistance* in me to this work. So at the time I was called, I was

⁶ See John 1:14

in that infinite state of Being, doing the tasks at hand. I meditated in between tasks, but I was mostly *consciously aware* that Life was living Itself, that Consciousness was moving the body and I was “taking no thought”⁷ for all the things I was doing. I was actually enjoying a wonderful sense of freedom. The woman I was asked to help appeared to be unconscious on the floor. I suggested that she be moved to the couch and asked everyone to leave us alone. As I stood beside her, the Bible story in which Peter was called to the raising of Tabitha⁸ came to me. In that story, Peter asked those present to leave and shut the door (carnal mind, nothingness!). As I stood there for about 3 minutes, silent and empty of self, the woman regained consciousness and said, “Oh, Virginia, thank you.” When I asked if she wanted me to call a practitioner, she said, “No, you did the work.” I replied, “But I didn’t do anything.” However, I did know she was not the body but a living Soul, and I knew that she was Consciousness. If Consciousness is God, how can Consciousness ever be unconscious?

No name or label of any kind was put on this appearance and to my knowledge, the woman was never ill again. When that opportunity was given to me, I was not identifying with the body, so I didn’t need to meditate to get out of the body sense and into Soul-awareness. When someone comes to us and we accept the picture at face value, we must give *ourselves* the treatment – it is

⁷ See Matthew 6:25

⁸ Acts 9:36-41

never given to the person but to ourselves so that we can get out of the parentheses and into the Circle of Eternity. When we enter the Circle of Eternity, then we rest – that is the end of our treatment. A treatment is actually making the adjustment within ourselves so that we realize power and Presence is Soul in union with Spirit in the Circle of Eternity that maintains the sun, planets, and tides. This is all an activity of the living Christ, the Soul of the universe that is Consciousness or we wouldn't be conscious of it.

The Consciousness that you are is conscious of the order of the Universe and knows no discord, lack, limitation, or forms of good or bad. It does not reward or punish, does not know if you are a good or a bad human being. *It only knows Itself.* As long as we are always concerned with this little self, the body self, then we are in the parentheses. That is the tomb, and what we celebrate every Easter is the resurrection out of that tomb.

Just think, every day can be a Christmas and Easter for you! You can rise up out of physical sense into the Incorporeality that you really are. This Incorporeal Life is the Soul of every form of life – it is One with all forms of life anywhere in the universe. So when you are consciously aware of the nature of your being as Soul wedded to Spirit, you can actually look up to the stars and look down from the stars. When Mary discerned the spiritual nature of Man, you can see why she said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord.”

Dear Friend:

Christmas is not an event that takes place in time and space, but is the inner awareness that Christ is the Soul of the Universe including all mankind. As we feel “My peace” and “My joy,” the tangible gifts of the union of Soul/Spirit, we are released from all karma and from the law of sowing and reaping. With this release, we find the glorious freedom of children of God.

Our Christmas gift to all mankind is to live in this atmosphere of inner peace and joy in true prayer and dedication so that the Light of His love shines in us and through us like a lighthouse blessing all.

Merry Christmas,

Virginia

© Virginia Stephenson, 2013