



Monthly Lesson
January 2012

“Trusting Infinite Love”¹

The inward journey we are beginning today is one without distance and yet it is eternal and immortal. Because it is spiritual, there is no time or space; it is here and now. The opening of this new dimension of Life is the awakening to That which Is. When we are asleep, we dream “good” and “bad” dreams, but when we awaken, the dream and the dreamer disappear. That Being within who is awake is the Christ. When we awake, we inherit the Kingdom of God and all its treasures and then we live without taking thought for our life – *“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.”*²

When we live in the Kingdom of God, our life is under His government and in that awakened state, God is fulfilling His plan in us, through us and as us. That is quite an inheritance of wholeness, completeness, infinite abundance and joy, isn't it? No good gift is withheld from us. All is omnipresent for us to enjoy. But the dreamer has no access to this. The dreamer is not an entity or identity but is a state of mind filled with human concepts, both good and evil. What we

hold in our minds as real and true, whether real or not, has a tendency to form itself in our experience. And so we suffer or we enjoy life according to our beliefs in “good” and “evil.” We are here to awaken from that dream and to realize that God's grace is omnipresent; while it is reflected in our universe, it can never be conceptualized by the human mind. *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”*³

To stay awake takes a great deal of love. We really must love God with all our heart, mind and soul. If we have been taught that God is a rewarding and punishing God, it is very difficult to love Him, and we might even fear Him. The Bible says *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*⁴ However, the meaning of the word “fear” in this passage is not the same as in our common usage. The real meaning is more similar to “respect,” so we can say that the respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If we believe that God is a rewarding and punishing God, we do respect that which is operating as the governing Principle, but it does not foster love. Thinking of God as a giving or withholding God creates apprehension and tension in us and doesn't encourage a free flow of love. So in the beginning stage, we substitute something that reveals the nature of a God that we can truly love. John said

¹ 1991 Asilomar Retreat, Tape 1 (9104), Side 1

² Luke 12:22

³ 1 Corinthians 2:9

⁴ Proverbs 9:10

*“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”*⁵ Now that is understandable.

My sense of God has always been love. Even as a child, the thought of a rewarding and punishing God never entered my mind. However, I often wondered why my prayers weren't always answered; sometimes they were answered very quickly but other times they were not answered at all. The Bible tells us that our prayers are not answered if we pray amiss. *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss.”*⁶ When we pray for the betterment of human concepts, we pray amiss. Our prayer has to start from a sense of trust in this infinite, invisible Presence, and we build that sense of trust by pondering and contemplating the word and concept of Love.

Joel says that perhaps the greatest, purest love is “mother love.” In some cases, that can be “smother love.” If we could define love as a “mother love” that liberates its offspring but is always omnipresent as an awareness of comfort, peace, and inner joy, we could come close to a sense of love we could trust. We must build an attitude of trust toward this idea we have of God. I remember that when I read that I was “one with God,” there were many things I did not like about myself and I couldn't love that which came through me. So I knew that even though I was one with God in principle, I certainly wasn't expressing Love that was untarnished and untainted by personal opinion and personal sense. So as I pondered the

concept and nature of Love, I found in prayer that no matter how unloving or unlovely I thought I was, when I turned within, I could be loved and comforted. I could feel a sense of peace and forgiveness, and from that build a trust within this “within-ness” that is so omnipresent in all of us. I could take the worst part of myself, lay it on the alter and say “I can't love this that comes through me.”

*“For what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.”*⁷ Like Paul, I know that I am not a sinner, and that I am one with God but there is still a sense of sin, or an aspect of me that is not wholly lovable. I want to learn what this Love is – more, I want to be that Love. If I can't be It, I can be a transparency for It. Then I can trust that Substance, that Essence which is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, and which is Love. I can dwell in Love because God is Love. Love is not a word or an abstraction. To me, love is the very essence of life; without love, living would be intolerable. Life and Love are one and we can add Truth as well. Life, Truth and Love make up the Holy Trinity that the Bible calls the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Love is the very essence and substance of Being which makes God the substance of all form. And so to get that feeling, we contemplate “God is Love,” and this consciousness that I am is Love. Then there isn't anything we can do that is not forgiven or understood, and we are shown the way out of the dark dream state of carnal mind into the awareness of the freedom, glory and harmony of Love.

⁵ 1 John 4:16

⁶ James 4:3

⁷ Romans 7:15

When we begin to build within ourselves this conscious awareness of the Kingdom of Love, we know that regardless of the outward circumstances, that Divinity or Presence is right with us and can never be separated from us. Then that trust exists and we can begin our spiritual life by pouring the full capacity of our love with all our heart, mind, and soul.

I was very fortunate to be raised in a family where metaphysical concepts were voiced. Though these concepts were not always lived, everyone made an effort to live out from this state of consciousness. So I know it must be difficult when people have an orthodox background in which God is depicted as a punishing God and where a heaven and a hell exist. The only hell that exists is what we make for ourselves and it is usually right here. It is not a place we go after we die, but is a reaction to the belief in good and evil. The only Heaven there is exists within us and It cannot be localized. It is all-pervading, omnipresent, here and now, invisible. But it can be entered in meditation. Rarely can it be entered without a contemplative form of meditation because the contemplation of the spiritual nature of God is a purification of our mental state that enables our mind, heart and soul to open to this inner Kingdom. So contemplation is very important.

When we begin on the spiritual path, we are working with two areas. There is the inner realm that the Master called "My Kingdom" which is all love. "*My kingdom is not of this world.*"⁸ There is also the outer or conceptual realm that is called "this world"

⁸ John 18:36

which can be very pleasant to some, but to others can be hell according to their background and concepts. This conceptual world actually corresponds with your inner world, so if you are barren because the door within is closed to the inner Kingdom, then you will be "asleep" until you awaken to the realization that there is an inner world that governs all your outer experience.

So you can see that the more enriched your inner life is, the more satisfied you will be. "*I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*"⁹ This enrichment of your inner life comes through contemplation. When we begin to understand the nature of God as Love and we begin to dwell in Love, and let It dwell in us, we are satisfied, not with material things, sensations, persons, places, things or conditions, but our satisfaction is in this relationship we have established in the inner Kingdom. We are here now to establish this relationship and to develop it over the course of this class until we are satisfied and we awake in His Likeness.

Let's start with a contemplative form of meditation:

There is an inner Kingdom, a fourth dimensional consciousness. In this Consciousness, there is only Love. This Love is the same today, yesterday and forever. Jesus taught us that this Love shines just as brilliantly, warmly and compassionately on the sinner as it does on the saint. This Love is not a respecter of persons; there is no personal element in this Love. When an individual has a realization of this Kingdom

⁹ Psalm 17:15

of Love, they become the embodiment or temple of Love. They may be very impersonal and have no need to obtain Love, but only to be Love. We learn that this Love can appear very personal but It is greater than any personal love because it is universal, unlocalized, and omnipresent. It is the very substance and activity of Consciousness. It is that which forms the baby in the womb, gives growth to the seed and brings forth rich fruitage in every aspect of life.

If Love is recognized as the creative principle, It brings forth life without pain or struggle. It endlessly multiplies the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and the cattle on a thousand hills. It is the very substance and activity of life. It can't be tasted or touched and It is not an emotion we can feel. It releases us from all sense of guilt, pain, fear, loneliness, worry, concern and the burden of personal sense, and It makes us feel like a little child – free. It releases us from the prison house of the mind and enables us to take an attitude of no concern for what tomorrow brings. It releases all our inhibitions to be ourselves, satisfies the longing of our hearts, and makes us feel that we want to embrace everyone in the world!

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”¹⁰ “These things I command you, that ye love one another.”¹¹

¹⁰ John 15:9

¹¹ John 15:17

Dear Friend,

As this is the beginning of the New Year, let us cleanse our hearts of all fear, doubt and sorrow. Let us renew our commitment to live in, through, and by the Spirit.

Let each day be a new birth. Let the past become nothing and all things new. For in truth, “I make all things new.”¹²

Let the New Year be filled with forgiveness and inner peace so that the Love that I Am is universally experienced in the eternal now.

In loving Oneness,

Virginia

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¹² Revelation 21:5