



Monthly Lesson
January 2013

“Universal Bond of Love”¹

For this class, we are using Joel’s book, A Gift of Love, and so we have a wonderful subject to explore. On Joel’s tapes, the emphasis has always been on Love. It is such a vast subject! I recall that one of Mrs. Eddy’s students asked her about love, and she said, “I stand in awe of that word!” This is because “*God is love.*”² How can we bring Love – or God – down to the human equation? We know that man has to be reconciled to God, but our human love always has a personal element that is demanding. The love that God *Is*, is total freedom and fulfillment. So our concept of Love must expand beyond the material sense of love.

Scripture says “*We love Him, because He first loved us.*”³ This means we are able to love because God (cause) is pouring His love on us at all times. God is omnipresent, always where we are. The wonderful 139th Psalm unfolds this truth; this writer caught the vision:

“Lord, you have examined me and you know me. You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts. You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions. Even before I speak, you already know what I will say. You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power. Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.”

Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there. If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.

I could ask the darkness to hide me, or the light around me to turn into night, but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you. You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you because you are to be feared [held in awe]; all you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart. When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother’s womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there — you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began.

O God, how difficult I find your thoughts; how many of them there are! If I counted them, they would be more than the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.”⁴

¹ 1993 Maui Class, Tape 1 (9301), Side 1

² 1 John 4:16

³ 1 John 4:19

⁴ Psalm 139:1-18 (Good News Translation)

The author of this Psalm was someone who had a constant, conscious capacity to know the Presence of God, and to know that this Presence is Omniscient (knows all), and is directing, protecting, and caring for us. There is no place we can go, or circumstance we can encounter that Divine Love isn't already present, preparing a place for us. When you ponder this as the Psalmist did, you will see that *"We love him, because he first loved us."*

The Bible also tells us that *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son [Self], that [through this Divine Selfhood] whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life [be saved or set free]."*⁵ Set free from what? -- bondage to the fleshly mind that sees with such limited vision. This mind has limited knowledge and personal scope. We have within us this seed of God, the Divine Self, the Son, and It overshadows us wherever we go. That Presence goes before us and *"the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain [smooth]."*⁶ That is certainly Love, isn't it?

But we have to remember that we are never alone. It may seem to us that we are a solitary self, but we are always One with all spiritual Being and Idea. We can compare it to an island chain; the islands appear to be separated, but they are actually one landmass and each island is a mountain peak emerging from the depth of the ocean. It is similar in our experience. While we appear separate and apart from each other, we are all interrelated and connected in the depths of

⁵ John 3:16

⁶ Isaiah 40:4

our being with this Divine Son that holds us in the embrace of Love. In one sense, it is the Christ consciousness that fashions the Tree of Life. Each of us might appear as solitary branches, but we are all connected. We are all being fed by the same Love, Wisdom and Truth through the Trunk and Roots of the Tree of Life.

One of the great principles of Love that Joel reveals in the Infinite Way is "In my conscious oneness with God [with Divine Consciousness], I am One with all spiritual Being and Idea." So that would mean that if it were necessary for you to have a relationship with someone, even on the other side of the world, that spiritual dynamic Presence in you would be operating in the person longing for the same companionship. It would be inevitable that you would meet and recognize each other. As a student group, we meet and recognize each other as connected; we don't recognize the body or brain, the "space suit" for this planet. When we take off the space suit, there is no place we begin or end because each one of us is connected with the same Substance, Mind and Soul that was in Christ Jesus.

I was given several letters written by Joel to one of the students, and in one of the letters, Joel said that very few students take the principle that is spoken of in Conscious Union with God⁷ and really work with it. Let's ponder it: *In my conscious Oneness with God, my conscious oneness with Love, the consciousness of this Divine Grace that has been bestowed upon us, I am One with the inner Self, the Divinity within all*

⁷ Chapter 13, "Mysticism"

humanity and with the Activity of every spiritual idea. This principle actually formed this class. You were not drawn by a person – Joel or Virginia – but by the Christ activity that has presented this message in its clarity in this age. Even Jesus didn't claim the message. He said, "*He that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him...*"⁸ Long before Jesus, this message was being broadcast into human consciousness. One culture after another selected "gems" from it throughout the ages. But because the mind is conditioned, it wasn't until the middle of the 19th Century that the practicality and healing power of the spiritual principles were revealed in the New Thought movement. This knowledge was always available but up to this time, it remained dormant because there was not sufficient understanding to bring it forth in "this world."

Jesus said, "*My Kingdom is not of this world.*"⁹ "This world" is our human perception where we do not see through appearances to that Reality, Oneness. As long as we accept appearances at face value, we will always be dealing with the drama of human experience. The Kingdom of God, spiritual living, is also an experience, but it is not the human drama created by our own mental state and the collective mental state of humanity. In this state, there is the belief in two powers that is sometimes exciting to the human being because of the tension, friction and abrasion between good and evil. But when we are born again of the Spirit, we do not reconcile these

⁸ John 8:26

⁹ John 18:36

pairs of opposites. Some writers today say that when you meditate and have the God experience, you reconcile the pairs of opposites but this is not true. What actually happens is that you have a change of consciousness and this new consciousness has *no judgment* of appearances and no opposites.

A great detachment takes place in us when we refrain from judging. One student wrote to me "You performed a lobotomy on me!" He was a doctor, and he said that it had become more difficult to recall some of the things he needed to know in his practice. I said, "How wonderful! You have had a change of consciousness. That old mind that was so full of names, labels, qualities, quantities and analysis is gone. Now when you examine a person, you have within you a Presence greater than that which is in the world; this Presence will reveal to you what is real. It will reveal to you that the Son of God is present although the person may seem clothed in mortality. What happens when that takes place? The Son of God has never been sick, was never born and never dies, so what unfolds to you will be the man who has his being in Christ. You will set him free! You will not reconcile the "pairs of opposites," but instead, you will witness how this Presence in you reconciles man to God."

This is a ministry of reconciliation. Once an individual has realized his or her God-being and oneness with God and this principle -- "In my conscious oneness with God [with Divine Love], I am One with all spiritual Being and Idea" -- this higher Consciousness will reveal to us spiritual Being and Idea. Scripture says "*...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways*

*my ways, saith the Lord.”*¹⁰ His thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways are infinite. When you have had the experience of knowing this transcendental Presence within you, it is your humility that allows It to reveal Itself, and to operate in you, through you, and as you – until no mortality is left in you. All that remains is God-being. This is our birthright and fulfillment. There is no fulfillment in “this world.” In our human sense, there may be fulfillment in the arts, sciences, family life, or professions, but there is always that nagging thought that there must be more to life than this limited, finite, personal sense of fulfillment. There must be a Love that transcends anything we have known as human love.

Throughout my life, I experienced all the wonderful facets of human love and affection, and yet in my heart, there was a longing for Something that went far beyond the known. True Grace, the activity of this Presence, seemed to push me forward to take steps that I had previously been too timid and reluctant to take. Through Joel, I finally had the God experience that satisfied the longings of my heart and left me with the awareness and knowledge that I was never alone but was always in the Presence of the Comforter. I knew that *“Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.”*¹¹ I knew that this Love comforted, healed the sick, and opened human consciousness to the Light of I Am, the Presence of God. So it is within you. This Presence within you has brought you here to experience reconciliation to your true Being, so that you can know what it is to live by Grace.

¹⁰ Isaiah 55:8

¹¹ Alfred Tennyson

Dear Friend:

True love is never in a hurry; it is timeless and effortless and fills the universe with harmony and order. In it there is no lapse from, nor return to harmony, as it is the law of "I AM ALL." When we see that in our oneness with Spirit is our completeness, we let go of all planning and outlining, and we let Love prevail.

To live in this Oneness is to live with the inner ear open to My peace and My joy. Thus the guidance of the Spirit fills each day with newness of life/love. Living this way makes for a Happy New Year. This is our joy -- living the beautiful and the true.

Blessings of peace and love,

Virginia

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