



Monthly Lesson
January 2014

“The Integrity of the Light”¹

It is such a joy and privilege to unite as we have for many years to experience the presence of God. We experience that Oneness, and yet so often we fail to recognize that which we already divinely are.

In a 1962 Chicago Class tape, Joel said, “It is not what you know that heals, it is what you are.” Isn’t that fabulous? So few of us realize who we are. We have little realization of the power that is embodied in us, a power we can’t use, give or withhold. Yet this is the very essence of our being. So when we recognize that all spiritual power is embodied in us, we also need to know that it is not something we can give to anyone or even talk about. If there were a word we could use, it would be “integrity.” This is the healing grace within us that was embodied in us in the beginning. God made us in his image and likeness; He made us spiritual and incorporeal, and that has never changed. The Bible says, “*whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it.*”² That is our spiritual integrity, our spiritual identity that, by His Grace, God gave as Himself to us as our true

being. We are his image and likeness – spiritual, invisible, incorruptible, eternal and immortal. That has never changed. It doesn’t matter how many lifetimes we have lived clothed with mortality; the integrity of our being is still intact. Nothing can touch it – neither sin, disease, lack nor limitation can ever touch the reality of our being. That is the mystical truth, the spiritual truth. We cannot attain it; it is the Grace of God, the fullness of Grace and truth, the Glory we had with God before the world was. Glory here means our divine character.

In our spiritual journey, we are endeavoring to die daily to our humanhood so that this divine, spiritual Integrity that has always been can shine forth in all its glory. The first chapter of the book, The Mystical I, says, “The message of the Infinite way is wholly dedicated to admitting the presence of the Christ into consciousness, and letting It transform us from the human sense of life to the spiritual, not merely changing a bad human sense of life to a good human sense of life. Our interest is not in that direction. Our interest is in surrendering the whole of material sense even when it is good, and receiving in exchange our divine sonship. The goal of the Infinite Way is to become the son of God, not merely a healthy human being, a good human being, or a wealthy human being, but rather to show in our daily experience our spiritual nature, that which actually was given to us in the beginning.”

So let us be clear that if we have come to this message to gain healthy humanhood, wealthy humanhood or good humanhood, we have missed

¹ 1986 Asilomar Retreat, Tape I (8634), Side 1

² Ecclesiastes 3:14

the point! We have come here to gain the mystical awareness of our true identity.

Scripture says, “*yet in my flesh shall I see God.*”³ That is a promise and a truth. As you surrender and are divested of the material concept of your humanhood – that which was born and will die – you will be honoring your spiritual integrity. You will be receiving that Light which was given you before the world was. You will be receiving illumination and that is what you are here for – to accept that illumined vision of man, your true identity. In this acceptance, mortality begins to disappear just as darkness disappears in the presence of light. We don’t have to struggle with mortality if we accept the premise that God made man in His image and likeness, “*male and female created he them*”⁴ spiritual, eternal and immortal. This is the premise of mystical awareness.

So now you know why we say repeatedly that we must die daily – to what are we dying daily? We are dying daily to that personal sense of limitation, effort, struggle, and that personal sense of glorifying our humanhood. It cannot be glorified but must be discarded so that the Christ stands revealed. Jesus said, “*A seed must die before it can sprout from the ground.*”⁵ This seed in us - the kernel or bread of life - is the sense of *I*. The word *I* is the seed of God. Say It gently to yourself. Now bury It in the holy ground of silence and stillness, recognizing that this is the divine Life, Intelligence, Wisdom, and Love of

your being. All these glorious characteristics of God’s son are embodied in this seed of true identity – *I*. Let It be covered with stillness. “*Be still and know that I am God.*”⁶ That is a divine command. There is no hedging in this divine command. It says, “*Be still and know that I am God.*” This seed must grow in us. Day after day, we must bring this to our conscious remembrance. This *I* is not a mortal sense of body. *I* is not a thought. *I* is God.

This is so sacred and so holy that we must hold it sacred and secret or we lose our integrity. To claim that *I* am only a body is to live a lie. To say that this divine *I* was ever born or ever died is a lie. Scripture tells us, “*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting.*”⁷ *I* am God.

So you see, dear friends, when we start with a lie, a lie begets a lie, and then another and another, and soon our lives are built on a false structure of lies with no truth in them. Jesus turned to Peter who had just recognized the Christ of Jesus, but had told Jesus that he should protect himself so that he would not suffer. Jesus replied, “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.*”⁸ When you start from any internal premise about your humanhood, and base your life on that false structure, you are not living up to your spiritual integrity, but rather all that you do is based on a lie.

³ Job 19:26

⁴ Genesis 1:27

⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:36 (Contemporary English Bible)

⁶ Psalm 46:10

⁷ Psalm 41:13

⁸ John 8:44

You can see that most of mortality is based on a lie. We must surrender this mortality every single day. Sometimes people ask me, "Is there a time when we have finished surrendering?" I have to answer that I have not yet come to that time. There is still that old humanhood that comes up for all of us during the day. We recognize, "Ah, ha – that is coming from the wrong place. It is not coming from my integrity. If I am going to be a transparency for God's grace, I cannot have that little 'I' thought or those who touch me will touch something other than the Light of the world."

We can't inaugurate this integrity. It is always omnipresent in everyone from the least to the greatest -- all possess this divine Integrity. And while we may think that this seed grows in us, it is actually already there in all its fullness. It is we who grow up into that full stature of manhood or womanhood in Christ Jesus. In other words, the Light is infinite and it is always omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. What is veiling or hiding it? Personal sense. That is the only thing that can veil or hide it. Let no one persuade you that you don't have to die daily! It is absolutely necessary if you are to live by Grace. When there are no barriers, that is, when this personal sense of *I* is eliminated from your thought, and you are taking no thought for tomorrow, but living in the ever present *now*, you will be living in your integrity as long as you are not holding limited human concepts of health, wealth, relationships and the like. Every human concept that you hold in your mind limits God because it is a barrier to the Light.

What is demanded of us is unlimited awareness in which we are not bringing up any barriers to this Light, this Integrity that was instilled in us in the beginning. A child comes into the world with this; then the parents begin to cloth the child with mortality. "Oh, he looks just like his grandfather," "she is just like her mother," and so on. As we clothe the unlimited spiritual being with mortality, we help to create a denser and denser individual personality until that being is so affected by religious, racial, economic, and national beliefs that all his or her spiritual integrity and reality is hidden under a bushel basket of human beliefs. Instead of being a lighthouse, that spiritual being has been obscured in mortality and is living in the dark.

So our function every day is to let go of that encumbering mortal sense that we have allowed ourselves to be clothed in – take off those rags! This requires great alertness and means that we must watch our thinking and we must watch how we use the word "*I*." It doesn't come easy. It is difficult to express yourself in the present tense; not only do we have to stop thinking of *I*, but we also stop thinking of *he* and *she* as personalities. Instead, we realize that everyone we meet is the Light of the world who has this hidden splendor and divine Integrity. Our recognition of this Light in others, really knowing the truth about them, releases us as well as them. In the Infinite Way, this is called practicing the presence of God. We are recognizing that the *I* of everyone we meet is the Light of the world whether they know it or not, whether they are living up to it or not. Our recognition of the light within them releases us from mortality because what we do to another, we do to

ourselves. Recognizing the integrity that we all had with God before the world was is really all a practitioner does. We recognize that what God does is forever - this has never changed. Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. The Light exists and only needs our recognition; this is being true to ourselves and to our own divine nature. The man we see is the man we are. We can't go around claiming *I* for ourselves and seeing mortality in our fellow man. It is impossible.

So it is imperative that we recognize this Light, this *I*, this divine Reality in everyone we meet. The best way to do this is early in the morning when we first awaken. We realize within ourselves that this is God's universe. And it is a spiritual universe. It doesn't need saving, but we need saving from falling into the darkness of seeing a mortal man and a mortal universe. So every morning, we must make a divine adjustment in our own awareness and know that this is a spiritual universe as God created it. It can never change. Integrity is operating and we witness it to a degree in the laws of nature. We see the tides come and go, we see oranges grow on orange trees and apples grow on apple trees. We see like begetting like and we don't have to pray for any of these things to occur because that rhythm of spiritual Integrity is operating. That same Integrity is operating in you and in me, but it must be recognized each morning:

This is God's day, a day filled with the light of I Am, and God's day is my day. In this day, my first duty is to recognize the light of individual integrity. I recognize it in myself and everyone I meet.

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! It can be the happiest if we discipline ourselves to live in the NOW moment with the listening ear and the open heart to Love's tender presence. It would appear that the world is overturning in many places, and our gift of Love is to keep the inner Peace and Joy that is always present in the Christ-consciousness so that this Presence awakens mankind to practical spiritual solutions.

Let us review often the chapter New Horizon in Joel's book, The Infinite Way. I join you in this activity dedicated to opening the door to the activity of the Christ that dissolves material sense and awakens that spiritual element in each of us so that the Light of the world illuminates this dormant understanding.

Aloha,

Virginia

P.S. Thank you for the lovely Christmas greeting cards - they were surely enjoyed.

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