



Monthly Lesson  
July 2012

### **“Transformation by the Spirit”<sup>1</sup>**

This morning there is a question on the desk regarding morality and Joel’s marriages. Remember, we are making no judgment of anyone. Joel’s first wife was a Christian Science practitioner and she passed away. His second wife was also a Christian Science practitioner, and when he wrote the Infinite Way literature and began to teach the Infinite Way message, it frightened her because she had a large practice and did not want to leave the Christian Science movement. And so they parted ways. Later, Emma became his student and then his wife. In a sense, those marriages were the outpicturing of Joel’s change of consciousness. It is possible that if he had stayed in Christian Science, his second wife would have been his lifelong mate, but with his change of consciousness from the metaphysical to the mystical, they had a parting of the ways.

I have given a lot of thought to these questions about morality, *“but the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually*

*discerned.”*<sup>2</sup> The natural man can’t receive the things of God because he is living completely as a physical being and judging everything according to the sense testimony. It is when the Spirit of God enters human consciousness that It starts the expansion of our awareness. There is an opening of consciousness to other realms and dimensions such as music, art, literature, philosophical literature, world travel, and brotherly love.

As we expand our awareness of the one Infinite Consciousness, we are more in tune with the rhythm of the universe. As the Spirit penetrates and begins to germinate the spiritual center in us, we begin to want to explore spiritual literature and the spiritual nature of being. All the time we are taking in this newness of life, we are changing. As this higher, newer consciousness unfolds in us, we lose our taste for what we might have enjoyed as the natural man – racy conversations, arguments, and concerns for pleasure or pain fall away from us. The Spirit of God starts a refining process and purification in us, and the things that make us “earthy” begin to disappear. I remember when I used to love gourmet dining, going to football games, and playing bridge. Somehow those activities just disappeared along the way. When the Spirit enters human consciousness, It changes us; all those things that are of this world just fall away – we don’t try to change, *we are changed*. Finally, one day we find ourselves free of all attachments to the forms of pleasure of this world. We don’t condemn or judge them, or think we are “moral” or pure; we just don’t need them anymore. The Light has penetrated our

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:14

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<sup>1</sup> 1991 Asilomar Retreat, Tape IV (9107), Side 1

awareness and It has transformed us through the renewing of the mind. When I think of Joel, there was no more moral or ethical person in the world – we could trust our spiritual development to him. A person going to a teacher who has any self-interest could be totally manipulated and lose his entire life's demonstration in this particular parenthesis.

Like many of us, Joel started life as a natural man, but the entrance of Spirit through human consciousness refined him into a beautiful illumined soul. I didn't meet him until 1959, but I had read all his books since 1952. Then I was given the privilege of working with him in Honolulu for a month in 1962 and again in 1963. In 1963, he wasn't working with many people and I spent many hours with him. Emma was decorating their new home and she depended on me to drive him where he needed to go, so I was sometimes with him most of the day. When he told me his life story and I mentioned that I would have liked to know him earlier, Joel said, "You wouldn't have liked me at all!"

The man who brought about the change in Joel was a dedicated Christian Science practitioner who had been practicing for many years. A practitioner at this level is very refined, allowing very little worldliness into his or her thought so that spiritual healing can be brought forth. The Bible says, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"<sup>3</sup> The basis of spiritual healing is Love because Love is the great healer. But we can't mouth It, we must live It and be It. If we love God, we keep every commandment. We don't do this because

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<sup>3</sup> John 14:15

we are afraid or expecting a reward, we do this because of the great sense of freedom, peace and joy we have in living in conscious union with God. We cannot be unethical, immoral, or a "loose liver" and experience this. We all go through the refining process of fire where the Spirit burns away the dross and leaves the gold.

This refining process isn't always comfortable and sometimes the wayfarer leaves the path. I have seen people who depart because they just cannot go through the refining process. Sometimes in later years, they return and pick up where they left off. At the time, they felt they were losing something and those intervening years satisfied the worldliness that was operating in them. But in fact, when we lose our life, we find it! We lose the physical or material sense of life with the pains and pleasures of the physical senses, but we find a spiritual life that is more beautiful and satisfying. However, no one can give this to us until we are ready.

Joel sought out this practitioner and was completely lifted out of his humanhood. Think of that practitioner! He was a pure transparency for the Christ. He told Joel that he usually spent all day Saturday in prayer, did not see patients, and did not want Joel to enter his office. But his was the only office that was open, and Joel, who was very ill, begged to see him. Joel was told he could sit in the outer office while the practitioner prayed, and leave without disturbing the practitioner. Now that is a dedicated healing consciousness! That man loved God with all his heart, mind and soul; he loved his neighbor as himself, not as a "sick" neighbor.

He knew that the only “good” he could do for Joel was to pray. Joel’s freedom was dependent on his receptivity; his physical distress had made him receptive. Often, suffering is the only thing that makes people receptive. The practitioner was not seeing a suffering mortal. In his conscious communion with God, he was in Heaven and had no awareness of the man in his outer office. When practitioners are working, they have no awareness of a patient or problem; they never take the patient or problem into their thought, rather they experience Oneness and Wholeness.

The healer does not do or give something to the one coming to be healed. Instead he helps him come home to the All, to the One, to the way of Unity, and into the rhythm of the universe. In this meeting of Oneness, the one seeking help becomes more complete, and this is the healing. We would call this the revealing of wholeness. Joel says that healing in the Infinite Way is the revealing of your Christhood and that is what happened to him. His illness disappeared but that was incidental, wasn’t it? What was revealed was Joel’s inner spiritual integrity, his God being. And when that inner Integrity was unveiled, Joel had no more appetite for drinking, smoking, gambling or any other worldly pursuits. In addition to that, he found he had a healing consciousness without even knowing what it was; he had been stripped of his humanhood. That was the grace of the practitioner’s dedication and commitment to living in the Kingdom of God, here and now.

That is a wonderful gift, isn’t it? And you know, every one of you can experience Oneness! You can affect

the entire world by the altitude of your awareness. You can live morning, noon and night in the Kingdom of God. If you are retired, you have experienced everything and can now prepare yourself to make the transition out of personal sense and into My Kingdom. It is possible that you could actually translate; our body is just a mental form and if your mind is so illumined with the light of Love and at One with the rhythm of the Universe, the body will be transformed into a higher form! There is a wonderful adventure awaiting us but we have to be obedient to the commandments, to *“love the Lord thy God with all thy heart [all your emotions or affections], and with all thy soul [your silent being that is intrinsic, substantial, your essence], and with all thy mind [all your intellectual awareness].”*<sup>4</sup> When you do this, there is no room in your life for discord; you are taken into the spiritual rhythm and harmony of the universe and your experiences are full of love and joy. We can be Joy – we don’t have to be “heavy.” I never feel “heavy” and don’t judge people but think of the detours they are making: *“wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction [anything goes], and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*<sup>5</sup>

The narrow way is that there is only One and that One is not you personally; that One is God because God constitutes your being. But God does not constitute the nature of the natural man: *“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.”*<sup>6</sup> So

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 22:37

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 7:13-14

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:14

when we see a moral or ethical man, we are seeing someone who has been touched by the Holy Spirit and is open to his moral, ethical nature. It makes him a wonderful man in “this world” but does not necessarily make him spiritual because a further step is needed, and this is a new birth – born again of the Spirit.

Do you have to be moral and ethical to be touched by the Spirit? No, I’ve seen beautiful people who have had very sordid past experiences, but when the Spirit of God touched them, it turned their entire lives around. They became new creatures in Christ; the past was never part of God’s creation but was a dream world. When we wake up, we wake up to righteousness, to rightness. *“Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*<sup>7</sup> If the Spirit has touched you, you will be aware when you deviate from right action. Unkind words, self-interest, critical thoughts – all make you uncomfortable because your birthright is freedom.

The state of mind in this spiritual dimension of Consciousness is a mind that is unconditioned, pure, and receptive to love, peace, and truth. We all have this one mind, but not all are attuned to it because we are so personal. Spiritual life requires that we move out of the personal and into the Universal, the All. We move from a selfhood apart from God into My Kingdom where Thy will is done in me, through me, and as me - until there is no more me, only Thee. Then, God fulfills Itself as individual being.

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 5:20

*Dear Friend,*

*In these last three lessons, we have learned that the Way is narrow and only One can enter the Holy of Holies. There cannot be God and me. The little finite sense of “me and my problems” just disappears in the Presence of I AM, Omnipresence. In this Presence is the fullness of Joy and the peace that passes understanding.*

*Surely this gift of Grace is worth dying daily to “this world,” exchanging its pleasures and pains for a fulfilled life lived by grace and truth.*

*I have learned that Love is never in a hurry. There is time for us to experience “this world” and then, like tired children, we turn to My Kingdom where fulfillment gently unfolds.*

*In loving Oneness,*

*Virginia*

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