

BIBLE LESSONS

Compiled by
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Correlated to *The Infinite Way* and
Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture
By Joel S. Goldsmith

Lesson 10: Cause and Effect

Introduction to the Bible Lessons

At Joel Goldsmith's 1962 Princess Kaiulani class in Hawaii, Joel invited Virginia Stephenson to give daily lectures on the Bible. To his delight, the whole class attended the lectures, and there was a great receptivity to them. As a result of these Bible lectures, Joel asked Virginia to make up a Bible study program that revealed the timeless, universal spiritual principles which are the basis of the Infinite Way. Joel wanted every student to be familiar with the spiritual thread of Oneness that runs through the Old Testament and the New Testament. Virginia's Bible Lessons originally appeared in Joel Goldsmith's Monthly Letters starting in January, 1963, and continued through April of 1965. They focused the students on the various principles and aspects of mystical unfoldment.

A mystical teaching like The Infinite Way requires study. It is not a religion in which you can find comfort in a church, temple or mosque. The way one comes to mystical realization is through study and meditation. These lead to illumination – that state of consciousness in which the presence of God is experienced. The tools we have for this kind of study go back to antiquity. Many great lights lived as transparencies for the Divine, and many of them left records of the principles for living in that mystical consciousness. Joel Goldsmith's work is a message of Christian mysticism, and he left a large body of work for people to study. To fully understand the principles he left to the world, it is helpful to know the Bible.

These Bible Lessons require the active participation of the student; they involve more effort than just reading from a book. They guide the student into finding the connections between the modern presentation of mysticism and its ancient roots. Not everything in the Bible is spiritual. Much of it describes the struggle of a people wanting to know God, and defines their concept of God and how man relates to the divine and to his fellow human beings. The mystical revelation in the Bible is hard to find, and often it is veiled behind a human agenda. Because of Joel's many years in Christian Science, where the Bible is essential to the service, Joel knew the Bible and was able to unveil its mystical thread. In his Infinite Way message, Joel continued to use the Bible as the foundation for mystical revelation.

How to study the lessons

To study these lessons, first read the Bible passages given in the box. These passages have been selected to emphasize the theme of the lesson. Then read the selection from Joel's book(s) that is given after the Bible passages. Read just one section at a time and contemplate and meditate on what you have read. In this way you will increase your knowledge of scripture, and you will discover the connection between the mysticism of The Infinite Way and its ancient root.

Studying these lessons can also be a group activity. Individuals can take turns reading the passages and the group can meditate after each section is read.

Please note that the page references for quotations from *The Infinite Way* (abbreviated “TIW”) are from the DeVorss & Company thirty-fourth printing of the book in 2006. Page references for quotations from *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (abbreviated as “SIOS”) are from the DeVorss & Company twenty-fourth printing of the book in 2003. If you have older or newer versions of these books, the passage that is quoted may be on a different page. If you are using the e-book versions of the books, you may not have page numbers at all. However, you can use the “Search” function on your e-reader to search for the first few words of the quotation and easily locate the passage.

Each book reference is given in this format: [*Book Title, page number: paragraph number*]. For example, the reference “*TIW, p. 21: 1-2*” refers to *The Infinite Way*, page 21, paragraphs 1 and 2. The reference “*SIOS, p. 25: 2*” refers to *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture*, page 25, paragraph 2.

The paragraph numbers refer to “whole” paragraphs. In other words, a partial paragraph at the top of a page is not counted as the first paragraph on that page. It is considered the completion of the last paragraph on the preceding page. So for example, the reference “*TIW, p. 34: 1*” refers to the first complete paragraph on page 34 of *The Infinite Way*.

All Bible quotations are from the King James Version. Today, there are many online Bible study websites such as biblegateway.com and biblehub.com that are rich with features to facilitate study. Most of them allow you to specify a Bible passage, and then read that passage in many different translations. While Joel always used the King James Version, it can be helpful to read the same Bible passage in a few different translations before contemplating the passage to discern the meaning.

Our gratitude

We are most grateful to DeVorss & Company for their gracious permission to use quotations from *The Infinite Way* and *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* for these Bible Lessons.

Lesson 10: Cause and Effect

Part I

Psalms 24: 1-5

- ¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*
- ² *For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.*
- ³ *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?*
- ⁴ *He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*
- ⁵ *He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

“IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word was made flesh.’

“The Word was made flesh’ – but it still is the Word. By being made flesh it does not change its nature, character, or substance. Cause becomes visible as effect, but the essence or substance is still the Word, Spirit or Consciousness.

“In this wise, do we understand that there is not a spiritual universe *and* a material world, but rather that what appears as our world is the Word made flesh, Spirit made visible, or Consciousness expressed as idea.

“All the error that has existed down the ages is founded on the theory or belief of two worlds, one the heavenly kingdom, or spiritual life, and the other a material world or mortal existence, each separate from the other.”¹

John 1: 1-3, 14, 16

- ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- ² *The same was in the beginning with God.*
- ³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

- ¹⁴ *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- ¹⁶ *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

¹ *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 21: 1-4. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

“Let us begin with the understanding that our world is not an erroneous one, but rather that the universe in which we live is the realm of reality about which man entertains a false concept. The work of bringing health and harmony into our experience is not, then, getting rid of, or even changing, a mortal material universe, but correcting the finite concept of our existence.”²

I John 1: 1-5

¹ *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;*

² *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

⁵ *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

“The Life which is God is our life. There is but one Life and this is the life of all being, of every individual. We individualize this eternal Life, and it is no less God in one than in another, and it is diseaseless and deathless in all. Our consciousness of this truth is the healing influence within us.

“There is but one Consciousness, God. We individualize this omnipotent, omniscient Consciousness; therefore, our consciousness is the ever-present help in every circumstance. For this reason, we do not pray to, or contact, some far-off Being, but realize the omnipresence of divine Consciousness as our consciousness, and let go of the seeming problem. The awareness of this truth establishes us in the consciousness of the presence of Life, Truth, God. The understanding of the oneness of Consciousness as our consciousness, of Life as our life, is Truth eternal.”³

² *TIW, p. 22: 1*

³ *TIW, p. 57: 3-4*

Part II**John 10: 1-5, 14-18, 24-30**

- ¹ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.
- ² But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- ³ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
- ⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.
- ⁵ And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
- ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.
- ¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- ¹⁶ And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.
- ¹⁷ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.
- ¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
- ²⁴ Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.
- ²⁵ Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.
- ²⁶ But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.
- ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
- ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.
- ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
- ³⁰ I and my Father are one.

“So much attention has been given to faith in God to do something for us, or to faith in a healer or teacher, that we have overlooked the great truth: Error is not real – there is no matter, since the substance of matter is really mind.

“We are learning from the physical scientists as well as from metaphysicians that what has been termed matter is a misinterpretation of mind. Mind is the instrument of God, and God is Spirit; therefore, all that exists is spiritual substance regardless of the name or nature ascribed to it by finite sense.”⁴

⁴ TIW, p. 86: 1-2

Hebrews 11: 1,3

¹ *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

³ *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

“Through false education, which constitutes finite sense, we have come to fear certain individuals, things, and conditions, not realizing that as these are coming to us through the avenue of consciousness they are all God-being, Consciousness appearing, Spirit-substance. Material consciousness is the false finite sense which beholds the universe and man as limited, as being both good and evil. Spiritual consciousness is the awareness of the individual as God-being, as having only the mind of God and the body of Spirit. It recognizes the entire universe as mind-appearing and governed by divine Principle. Spiritual consciousness is the ability to see beyond the appearance to reality. It is the recognition and realization that as God is our mind, all that appears to us is in and of God which is our only consciousness.”⁵

Part III**Galatians 5: 16-25**

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

¹⁷ *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

“OUR REAL existence is as Spirit, and only in the degree that we perceive our real existence as Spirit, do we drop the false sense of life as material. Then we see that the structural life of man, animal, and plant is but the false sense of existence; that our concern for the so-called necessities of material living has been unnecessary; that although the beauties we behold all hint at God's creation, they are not that spiritual and

⁵ *TIW, p. 86: 4*

perfect creation; that the sick, aging, dying appearances are not at all a part of real life. When we arrive at this state of consciousness, we begin to catch glimpses of eternal spiritual existence, untouched by material conditions or mortal thoughts. As we turn from the world we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell, we catch inspired visions which show forth the earth of God's creating.

"In healing work, we must turn from the structural universe which we see. We must remember that we are not called upon to heal it, change it, alter it, correct it, or save it. We are first of all to realize that it exists only as illusion, as the false sense of life. From this vantage point in consciousness, we behold through spiritual sense the 'house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"⁶

Galatians 6: 7-8

⁷ *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

⁸ *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

"Every night we should realize that our rest does not bring to a close God's activity in our experience, but that Love is the protecting influence and substance of our rest, that Consciousness is imparting Its ideas to us even in sleep, that Principle is the guiding law through the night. Nothing from without can enter consciousness to defile, and this truth stands guard at our mental portals to admit only reality and its harmonies."⁷

"The kingdom of God does not consist of more and better matter, nor does it necessarily include a greater vocabulary of truth. Yet the fruitage of spiritual understanding is greater harmony, peace, prosperity, joy, and more ideal companionships and relationships."⁸

⁶ *TIW, p. 61: 1-2*

⁷ *TIW, p. 64: 2*

⁸ *TIW, p. 28: 2*

Part IV**Isaiah 6: 1-7**

- ¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*
- ² *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*
- ³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*
- ⁴ *And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*
- ⁵ *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*
- ⁶ *Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:*
- ⁷ *And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*

“Why are we so slow in gaining our freedom from illness, discord, and other material conditions? It is entirely because of our inability to grasp the great revelation that there is no reality to error.”⁹

Isaiah 1: 18

- ¹⁸ *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

“God evolved the world and all that is therein. What we behold through sense is not that world, but the false and finite concept of the world of God’s creating. Rising in consciousness, we begin to perceive the spiritual universe and something of its purpose.”¹⁰

⁹ *TIW, p. 85: 2*

¹⁰ *TIW, p. 68: 2*

Isaiah 65: 17-19, 21, 25

¹⁷ *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

¹⁸ *But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.*

¹⁹ *And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.*

²¹ *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

²⁵ *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

“In this consciousness, God is found to be the inner light or at least this light is felt as an emanation of God. God is felt as a divine Presence or Influence within. It is felt by those who come in contact with the man who has found his inner Self. It is reflected in his health and success. It radiates from him as sunbeams radiate from the sun.”¹¹

“In finding his inner life, this man has found peace, joy, harmony, security. Even in the midst of a failing world, he stands unmoved, untouched – the very presence of immortal Being.”¹²

“In this consciousness, finite sense disappears and the vision is without boundaries. Life is seen and understood as unfettered form and limitless beauty. Even the wisdom of the ages is encompassed in a moment. Death disappears, and once more we see those previously separated from us by this so-called impassable barrier. This communion is not the communication as understood in the teaching of spiritualism, but an awareness of eternal life untouched by death. It is the reality of immortality seen and understood. It is a vision of life without beginning and with no ending. It is reality brought to light. In this consciousness, there are no physical barriers of time and space. The vision encompasses the universe. It bridges time and eternity. It includes all being.”¹³

¹¹ *TIW, p. 73: 2*

¹² *TIW, p. 74: 1*

¹³ *TIW, p. 74: 3*

Notes: Cause and Effect