

Bible Lessons

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

Lesson 12: Omnipresence

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 12: Omnipresence

Part I

Genesis 12: 1-2

- ¹ *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*
- ² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

“In the Bible, we meet with the characters Moses, Isaiah, Jesus, and Paul. We should realize that Moses represents the leader-state of consciousness, or leadership; Isaiah presents to us prophecy; Jesus shows forth the Messiah-consciousness, or saving and healing Grace; Paul carries the consciousness of the messenger, preacher, or teacher. Always, however, it is the particular state of consciousness expressing itself and appearing to us as men.”¹

Genesis 17: 1-8

- ¹ *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*
- ² *And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.*
- ³ *And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,*
- ⁴ *As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*
- ⁵ *Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.*
- ⁶ *And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.*
- ⁷ *And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*
- ⁸ *And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*

“The search for freedom from the trials and tribulations of human experience has begun. It is really a search for God and it begins at whatever place in consciousness the individual may find himself. If he has a deep religious sense with a church background, he may seek the Power in religious worship, in some creed or dogma or some particular

¹ *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 62: 2. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

form of worship. The intellectual will undoubtedly seek the Power in the realm of philosophy or one or another of the philosophical religious teachings. In more recent times, the search may turn to the metaphysical church teachings or oriental yoga practices. Without doubt, many go from one to another of these steps still seeking God, or the Power, which may eventually halt the reign of mortality.”²

“One day something happens within. Consciousness expands and sees that which before was invisible. One feels a flow of warmth; a Presence never before known becomes tangible, very real. This often is a fleeting experience. One may not even be certain that it occurred. It lingers in memory, but more as a dream than an actuality, until it happens again, and this time more clearly, more definite, and perhaps lasting longer. Gradually there dawns in consciousness the realization of a Presence always present. This Presence may be felt as if lurking in the background of one’s consciousness. At times it becomes a very commanding Presence dominating the scene or experience of the moment.”³

“Faith is an activity of consciousness – just as much so as integrity. Faith is always present in you, even though, like integrity, it may be dormant. The recognition and acknowledgement of the omnipresence of faith as an activity of individual consciousness starts the flow of it into visible and tangible effect.”⁴

Part II

Genesis 28: 10-16

¹⁰ *And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.*

¹¹ *And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.*

¹² *And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.*

¹³ *And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;*

¹⁴ *And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*

¹⁵ *And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

¹⁶ *And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.*

² *TIW, p. 71: 1*

³ *TIW, p. 72: 1*

⁴ *TIW, p. 173: 2*

“Deep within your inner being there is an invisible Presence which has been felt by the prophets and seers of all ages. Moses felt it in his bosom when shepherding on the hills. Elijah and Elisha communed with it within themselves and performed miracles. It gave power and vision to Isaiah and Jeremiah, Joel, Jacob and all the line of Hebrew leaders. Every man has this divine Presence deep within himself. The Jews call it Immanuel, or God with us. The Christians call it the Christ. This Immanuel, or presence of God, is the spark that makes you a man. Without it you would be a piece of dead flesh; with it you are a living reasoning, loving being.”⁵

Isaiah 43: 1-7

- ¹ *But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*
- ² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*
- ³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.*
- ⁴ *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.*
- ⁵ *Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;*
- ⁶ *I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*
- ⁷ *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

“Open your Bible and turn to some of the stirring stories of David, Solomon, Joseph, Samuel and other prophets, and think of the spirit within them; the spirit of Love that moved them to perform great deeds for their people; the spirit of Truth which urged them on to serve the weak, the poor and the suffering. This same Spirit, Immanuel, is within you. It forms *your* desire to live, to serve, to succeed.

“Another great one felt this power of the Spirit within himself. He was known as Jesus of Nazareth, and this fire of Love in him flared forth to make his teaching the hope of mankind. This inner Light, this Immanuel, we now call the Christ, the Spirit of God, and yet it is the same Immanuel in a different language. And remember, it dwells in you, awaiting only your recognition and acceptance. It is a giant power house within you just requiring a touch to make it break forth with dynamic energy to build your life and body anew.”⁶

⁵ *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (DeVorss & Company, Twenty-fourth printing, 2003), p. 150: 2. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “SIOS.”

⁶ SIOS, p. 151: 1-2

“Again the Bible Dictionary says, ‘Spiritual thought and spiritual meditations are constantly carrying us to the place of ascension where form is resolved into its divine idea.’

“By consecration of thought to spiritual ideals, or by meditation, we attain this state of consciousness wherein we find our perfect and immortal existence. By listening we attain a state of receptivity, through which all the Realities are revealed to us. In this consciousness we do not live by bread alone, nor do we live by taking thought; instead life to us becomes a state of Grace – the very gift of God.”⁷

Part III

Galatians 3: 15-29

¹⁵ *Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.*

¹⁶ *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

¹⁷ *And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.*

¹⁸ *For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

¹⁹ *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

²⁰ *Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.*

²¹ *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

²² *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

²³ *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*

²⁴ *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

²⁵ *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

²⁶ *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

²⁷ *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

²⁹ *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

⁷ SIOS, p. 164: 1-2

“Before the advent of Truth or of metaphysical healing in your experience, you were in a darkened state of thought – without spiritual illumination – without higher understanding. In this dark sense you were in bondage to physical pain and pleasure; to lack of peace and security, often in slavery to fear, sin and disease.”⁸

“There was also a constant fluctuation between good and evil, plenty and lack, freedom and serfdom, human good and human ill in their experience – further proof that their demonstration was wholly on the human plane.

“As you look back upon your own experience in metaphysics or Truth, you will find that you also were only experiencing, even in healings, a greater degree of human good. You had not made the transition to the spiritual understanding which destroys the fluctuating experiences of humanhood.

“No doubt many inharmonious physical and financial conditions disappeared to give place to physical conditions of harmony and increase. This was your Moses promise being fulfilled with greater human good. During this period of human improvement, you, just as the Hebrews of old, were under the law. Ten Commandments, church laws, rules and restraints – all these are necessary under the progressive steps with Moses. Moses, in your case, is the first Promise in your consciousness of a better Land.”⁹

Part IV

Matthew 8: 5-10, 13

⁵ *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,*

⁶ *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

⁷ *And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

⁸ *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

⁹ *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

¹⁰ *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

¹³ *And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

“Faith does not concern the past of the future. Faith is an activity taking place in the present – now, only now!

⁸ SIOS, p. 78: 1

⁹ SIOS, p. 79: 1-3

“Faith is a quality of God, not of man; but, as a quality of God, it is present in all its fullness.”¹⁰

John 4: 31-38

³¹ *In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.*

³² *But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.*

³³ *Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?*

³⁴ *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

³⁵ *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

³⁶ *And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.*

³⁷ *And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.*

³⁸ *I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.*

“The mind that was in Christ Jesus is not afar off, nor is it the mind of only a few great religious leaders: The mind that was in Christ Jesus is your mind and it is ready to impart itself to you as you forget self and become receptive to the divine wisdom within you. The resources of Soul are waiting at the door of your consciousness ready to pour forth more than you can accept, but not to satisfy some personal or selfish desire. These false desires are the stumbling blocks to our spiritual development, and we must not think to use our spiritual powers to gain personal and selfish ends. The song of the Soul is freedom, joy, and eternal bliss; the song of the Soul is love to all mankind; the song of the Soul is you.

“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.”¹¹

“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.”¹²

“Communion with God is true prayer. It is the unfoldment in individual consciousness of His presence and power, and it makes you ‘every whit whole.’ Communion with God is in reality listening for the ‘still small voice.’ In this communion, or prayer, no words pass from you to God, but the consciousness of the presence of God is realized as the impartation of truth and love comes from God within to you. It is a holy state of being and never leaves us where it finds us.”¹³

¹⁰ *TIW, p. 173: 1, 3*

¹¹ *TIW, p. 85: 1-2*

¹² *TIW, p. 86: 1*

¹³ *TIW, p. 109: 3*

Notes: Omnipresence