

Bible Lessons

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

Lesson 13: Omnipotence

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 13: Omnipotence

Part I

Psalms 46: 1-10

- ¹ *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*
- ² *Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*
- ³ *Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.*
- ⁴ *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*
- ⁵ *God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.*
- ⁶ *The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.*
- ⁷ *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*
- ⁸ *Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.*
- ⁹ *He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.*
- ¹⁰ *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

“Spiritual power emanates from the Soul – the Soul of you and the Soul of me. It is impersonal and impartial. Everyone may open the windows of his Soul and behold the infinite glories of a world far above the universe of sense. Far greater than anything we have ever seen or heard is the world of the Soul, the world that is seen through spiritual sense. We know that unillumined thought beholds the universe as material, whereas the illumined consciousness, or Soul-sense, sees and understands the universe as spiritual.”¹

“The exercise of the Soul-faculties results in breaking the illusions of sense. All human discords are products of material sense and are experienced through the five physical senses – that is, all mortal inharmonies are seen, heard, felt, tasted, or smelled. Existing only in this material state of consciousness, discords and disease have their being merely as false sense, or illusion, though naturally seeming very real to the senses.”²

“We bind ourselves by believing that there is a power outside of us – a power for good or for evil. All power is given to you. And this power is always good because of the infinite Source whence it flows. The recognition of this great fact brings a peace and a joy untold, yet felt by all who come within range of your thought. It makes you beloved of men. It brings you recognition and reward. It establishes you in the thoughts of men and becomes the foundation of an eternal good will.”³

¹ *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 87: 2. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

² *TIW*, p. 79: 3

³ *TIW*, p. 120: 2

“God is not power. When you reach the center of Consciousness, you find a complete stillness – a deep well of Silence. It is not power, since there is nothing for it to be a power to, or over: *It just IS.*”⁴

Part II

Isaiah 55: 7-12

⁷ *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

⁸ *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

⁹ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

¹⁰ *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*

¹¹ *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

¹² *For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.’ For this reason we are not attempting to think more or better human thoughts, nor to have our human ways made more smooth. We truly are seeking to learn God’s thoughts and God’s ways.”⁵

“We all know how to use material force, as when we lift some weight through the strength of our muscles, or exert pressure through arms or legs, and we also understand how to exert mental pressure as in deep thought or through personal will.

“That there is a Soul-force we know, but that this soul-power can do more for us than all the material and mental power combined is but little suspected. Perhaps one reason for the world’s lack of interest in this vast subject is that this great reservoir of power resident in our Soul cannot be used for selfish purposes. Think of the enormity of this – a great marvelous power at hand, and yet it can never be used to serve a selfish end. Herein lies the secret of why so few achieve Soul-consciousness. We only become aware of the presence of the Soul after we have freed ourselves of selfish desires, and

⁴ *TIW, p. 156: 3*

⁵ *TIW, p. 67: 2*

in proportion to our desire to serve the interests of mankind do we individualize this infinite power within us.”⁶

“It is right, natural, and normal that we live full, happy, and prosperous lives, but we can do this without taking thought for ourselves, for our supply, or even our health. All of the good necessary to our welfare will be supplied to us in greater abundance than we can accept when we give up the effort and desire to get, achieve, or accomplish, and come more into the consciousness of desiring only to fulfill our destiny on earth. We are here as part of a divine plan. We are Consciousness fulfilling and expressing itself in an individual way, and if we will learn to keep our thought away from ourselves and away from the fear that we will be without place or income or health, and let God fulfill its destiny through us or as us, we will really find all things added unto us.”⁷

Part III

Matthew 5: 34-48

- ³⁴ *But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:*
- ³⁵ *Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.*
- ³⁶ *Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.*
- ³⁷ *But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*
- ³⁸ *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:*
- ³⁹ *But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*
- ⁴⁰ *And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.*
- ⁴¹ *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*
- ⁴² *Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*
- ⁴³ *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*
- ⁴⁴ *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
- ⁴⁵ *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*
- ⁴⁶ *For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*
- ⁴⁷ *And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?*
- ⁴⁸ *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

⁶ TIW, p. 83: 1-2

⁷ TIW, p. 84: 1

“God is not power in the sense of power over evil, sin, disease, or death. God is not power in any sense involving battle, that is, overcoming or destroying.”⁸

Matthew 26: 51-52

⁵¹ *And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.*

⁵² *Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*

“Inasmuch as we cannot meet a problem on the level of the problem, we must rise above the level of appearance in order to bring out the harmony of being. That which is visible to the five senses is not the reality of things; therefore, we cannot think from that level. Disregarding appearances, we turn from the picture before the senses and begin there to become aware of Reality – of that which eternally is.”⁹

“The story is told that when Marconi was very young, he was confident that he would be the one to give wireless to the world and not the many older scientists who had been experimenting for years. After he had fulfilled his promise, he was asked why he had been so certain that he would succeed. His answer was that the other scientists were seeking first to discover a means to overcome resistance in the air to the messages that would be sent through the air, whereas he had already discovered that there was no resistance.

“The world is fighting a power of evil, but we have discovered that there is no such power. While *material medica* seeks to overcome or cure disease, and theology struggles to overcome sin, we have learned that there is no reality to disease or sin, and our so-called healings are brought about through this understanding.”¹⁰

“*True non-resistance* is the ability not to expect God to function in the dream. This does not mean that one lives without God, but rather, one finds his life to be eternally *in God*.”¹¹

⁸ *TIW, p. 174: 6*

⁹ *TIW, p. 59: 2*

¹⁰ *TIW, p. 119: 2-3*

¹¹ *TIW, p. 174: 2*

Part IV**Zachariah 4: 1-6**

- ¹ *And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.*
- ² *And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:*
- ³ *And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.*
- ⁴ *So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?*
- ⁵ *Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.*
- ⁶ *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

“Scripture should not be interpreted merely as historical documents, but as the spiritually revealed Truth of inspired sages and seers. In this Light there is but one Presence, one Power – and I am that.

“In this spiritual Light, you find Christ consciousness, the Kingdom of Heaven; you find Grace and spiritual freedom. Here there are no battles, no mental powers, no opposites and no opposition. ‘Not by (physical) might nor by (mental) power, but by my Spirit.’ Immortality without effort.”¹²

¹² *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (DeVorss & Company, Twenty-fourth printing, 2003), p. 24: 5-6. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “SIOS.”

Hebrews 4: 1, 4-6, 9-13

¹ *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

⁴ *For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*

⁵ *And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.*

⁶ *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*

⁹ *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

¹⁰ *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

¹¹ *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

¹³ *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

“Fourth Commandment: ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.’ This Sabbath has still another meaning for us: ‘in it (Sabbath) thou shalt not do any work.’ In this Sabbath state of consciousness we do no mental work – we ‘take no thought’ – we give no mental treatments for healing sin or disease. We rest and *let* God work in us, through us or, more rightly speaking, as us. It is a mental relaxing and a ‘thank you Father, I am’ – ‘Speak, thy servant heareth.’ – a letting go.”¹³

“The time has come to make the transition from healing matter, from healing physical discords, to realization of the spiritual harmony of being – to the spiritual sense of supply – to the spiritual sense of joy and peace and dominion. Joy in the Spirit is entirely different than joy in the human sense of the word. Success, spiritually understood, is an entirely different thing from acquisition of money or fame. The spiritual sense of health is something far beyond a heart beating a normal rate of speed. Eternal Life is not found in the physical realm; neither is infinite supply found in the physical realm, nor the continuous sense of joy or peace or dominion. Therefore, until we rise above this physical sense of existence, we cannot find the eternal or immortal good we are seeking. In the world where human betterment is the rule and the goal, there is also the sense of health and sickness, wealth and poverty – the opposites, in other words – and one may have one today and the other tomorrow. While in the spiritual consciousness of existence, there is only the continuity of good.

“Healings now should no longer be a matter of mental power, of mental struggle, of mental striving, or mental effort – healings should be a matter of Grace with you. The time is long past for you to be struggling for a healing; you must have arrived at that

¹³ SIOS, p. 28: 1

state of consciousness in which healings are accomplished through Grace – through Love – with just a smile.”¹⁴

“Spiritual consciousness is the release from personal effort in the realization that harmony is. This consciousness, with its release from personal effort, is attained as we find the Christ within us a present reality. The Christ is the activity of Truth in individual consciousness. It is not necessarily declarations of truth as much as the receptivity to Truth. As we attain an inner stillness, we become more and more receptive to Truth declaring Itself to us, within us. The activity of this Truth in our consciousness is the Christ, the very presence of God. Truth received and continuously entertained in our consciousness is the law of harmony to all our affairs. It governs, guides, leads, directs, and supports our every activity of daily existence. Where a belief of illness or lack may be, this ever-present Truth becomes our healer and supplier, yes, our health and our supply.”¹⁵

“Failure often comes through the belief that we express God, or Life, or Intelligence; or that we express God-qualities. This is never true. God, Consciousness, is forever expressing Itself and Its qualities. Consciousness, Life, Spirit, can never fail. Our task is to learn to relax and *let* our Soul express itself. Egotism is the attempt to be or do something through either personal, physical, or mental effort. To ‘take no thought’ is to refrain from conscious thinking and to let divine ideas fill our consciousness. Since we are individual spiritual Consciousness, we can always trust that Consciousness to fulfill Itself and Its mission. We are the spectator or witness of this divine activity of Life expressing and fulfilling Itself.”¹⁶

“We are led in this nineteenth chapter of I Kings to that great message in the eighteenth verse, ‘Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.’ You note here that God has not saved out seven thousand for Elijah, but for Himself – for God appearing as Elijah.”¹⁷

¹⁴ *SIOS*, p. 133: 1-2

¹⁵ *TIW*, p. 51: 2

¹⁶ *TIW*, p. 63: 3

¹⁷ *TIW*, p. 144: 2

Notes: Omnipotence