

BIBLE LESSONS

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

Lesson 16: Body

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 16: Body

Part 1

Psalms 127: 1

¹ *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.”

“A Bible Text is that on which we build our state of consciousness. We do not take Bible quotations and expect by much repetition for them to do something for us. We understand that every statement in the Bible that can be construed as a law must be embodied in and become a part of our consciousness in order that we may externalize the thought or idea in that text.

“‘Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.’ We understand that the ‘Lord’ in this case is our own Consciousness. Our Consciousness is the law, is the constructor of our universe. Our Consciousness is the substance, the force, the fabric of which our entire experience is built, therefore, whatever we take into our consciousness and make a part of our consciousness, becomes externalized in some form of human experience.

“We sometimes wonder why this year we are no better off than we were last year. It may be that last year we had some lack of wealth, health, morals, position, companionship, and this year that same condition exists. We need go no further than to realize that we have added nothing to our consciousness of Truth than was there before, and therefore nothing could happen to the external. We learn that the external existence is the reflection of our internal awareness.”¹

¹ *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (DeVorss & Company, Twenty-fourth printing, 2003), p. 99: 1-3. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “S/IOS.”

Psalms 90: 1-2

¹ *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.*

² *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

“These statements in the Bible, which really are laws, must become a very part of our being. They must be realized, not merely declared or stated; they must become the very fabric of our being, then we can experience the outward result.”²

Jeremiah 1: 4-5

⁴ *Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

⁵ *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

“The beliefs we entertain about the body constitute our sense of body. The truth about body is something entirely different from our concepts of it. The body itself is perfect. It is as immortal and eternal as Soul, God, which is the substance and Principle of the body.

“Your body – seen through the universal material beliefs of the world – was born, matures, ages and dies. This very body when correctly known, that is, spiritually discerned, is the very appearing of Soul-substance, Spirit-substance, eternal being. It is neither functional nor organic. What appears to us as functions and organs are our false finite concepts of the activity of Mind appearing as spiritual body or spiritual formation.

“As long as we entertain a material concept of body, we will have concern for it – we will cater to it – and find in it both pain and pleasure. As we continue to lift our concept of body until we gain the realization of what our body really is, we will find less and less of either pain or pleasure in it until we arrive at the state of consciousness where we realize the body as an impersonal vehicle or mode of expression.”³

² *SIOS, p. 100: 1*

³ *SIOS, p. 181: 1-3*

Genesis 1: 26-(:), 27

²⁶ *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:*

²⁷ *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

“Every suggestion of discomfort or inharmony coming from the body must be met instantly with the understanding of the true nature of body as spiritual. Only as we understand that errors of sense exist merely as suggestion and false sense, can we find freedom from the pains and pleasures of the body. We are never correcting the body, its so-called organs or functions. We are correcting the false concept or sense of body.

“All we have said here about body is equally true about business, home, security, wealth.”⁴

Part II**Matthew 6: 22-25, 33**

²² *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

²³ *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

²⁴ *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

²⁵ *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

“The only thing that is taking place in a treatment is the practitioner’s realization that all there is present is God; all there is that is power is God. God is appearing as a practitioner, as a patient, but always only one and that one is God. Until the three become one, the treatment is not complete; as long as there is a sense of duality, the treatment is not complete.”⁵

⁴ SIOS, p. 182: 1-2

⁵ SIOS, p. 124: 1

John 6: 32-35

³² *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

³³ *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

³⁴ *Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

“2. My body is the expression of my spiritual Self or being; it is the reflection of the I that I AM; it is the image and likeness of me and manifests all of the health, harmony and wholeness of the infinite spiritual consciousness which I am. Further, my business, profession, art or practice likewise is idea, expression or reflection of the qualities and activities of my real perfect being – always spiritually and fruitfully governed and supported.”⁶

Luke 22: 19

¹⁹ *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

“We cannot take the mortal concept of creation into heaven – harmony. We do not bring God to the material sense of existence. We surrender the ‘belief and dream of material living’ for ‘the life divine’; we exchange the objective sense world for the spiritual formations of divine creation. The physical sense of health includes a heart beating so many times to the minute; a digestive and eliminative system performing at regular intervals; bones, blood, brain – all doing certain things at certain times. Regardless of how perfect these may all be functioning at this moment, this same physical sense says that a continuous disintegration is going on leading to dotage, infirmity and decomposition and death. As opposed to this, the spiritual sense of life shows forth a life and body of eternal substance with no aging, withering, changing conditions – but rather a continuous and successive unfolding of good.”⁷

⁶ SIOS, p. 192: 3

⁷ SIOS p. 193: 3

Part III**John 12: 24-26**

²⁴ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

²⁵ *He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

²⁶ *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

“The healing of physical conditions is no different when done metaphysically than physically unless it is accomplished through the realization of the spiritual nature of Life, Mind, body, harmony, health and dominion. The mental or physical sense of dominion is not our aim. Our purpose is the realization of a spiritual sense of existence and we cannot be satisfied with anything less.”⁸

I Corinthians 15: 35-38, 40-53

³⁵ *But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?*

³⁶ *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

³⁷ *And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:*

³⁸ *But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.*

⁴⁰ *There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.*

⁴¹ *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

⁴² *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*

⁴³ *It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*

⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

⁴⁵ *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

⁴⁶ *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*

(continued)

⁸ SIOS, p. 132: 4

⁴⁷ *The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.*
⁴⁸ *As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*
⁴⁹ *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*
⁵⁰ *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*
⁵¹ *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
⁵² *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

“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.”⁹

Romans 12: 1-2

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

“When you realize God, Soul or Spirit as the only causative Principle, you likewise understand that all that exists is of that eternal substance and is therefore immortal. This understanding constitutes your spiritual awareness of Life and its formations, and when you have achieved this understanding, you will never lose your supply or your body, you will have attained eternal Life here and now and there will be no more death or passing, or even disease, for you.”¹⁰

⁹ SIOS, p. 133: 1

¹⁰ SIOS, p. 162: 4

“In building this new consciousness you are building the Temple ‘not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.’ This Temple you cannot build with materials other than the pure substance of Spirit. You cannot build with human qualities of evil, nor even with human qualities of good. You cannot build it with wrong thinking, but no more can you build it with right thinking. Human thought will not build this infinite eternal spiritual edifice. Human thought is finite and changeable, and it cannot result in an indestructible and immortal structure.”¹¹

Part IV

John 2: 18-21

¹⁸ *Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?*

¹⁹ *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

²⁰ *Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?*

²¹ *But he spake of the temple of his body.*

“People have considered their place of worship almost as important as the God they worshipped. The Holy Temple in Jerusalem was considered of such importance that Jews from all over the Holy Lands made pilgrimages there every year. The Temple, however, rightly understood, is a symbol of the spiritual universe or body and is attained not by means of a pilgrimage from one place to another, but by an expansion of consciousness, which then includes within itself the secret of immortality or life eternal achieved here and now.”¹²

¹¹ SIOS, p. 163: 1

¹² SIOS, p. 84: 3

Ezekiel 43: 2, 4-7, 9

² *And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*

⁴ *And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.*

⁵ *So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.*

⁶ *And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me.*

⁷ *And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.*

⁹ *Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever.*

“Again, he said, ‘Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.’ The material sense of Temple localizes and finitizes it; the spiritual sense reveals the infinite and immortal Temple of your life, your body, your experience of good.

“This true view of Temple likewise spiritualizes your understanding of worship. Thinking of church as material, as having edifices and rules, materializes and finitizes and localizes worship, whereas, the spiritual sense of church reveals the unlimited, unfettered prayer uttered within your own being.

“Following this line of thought, we find a Holy City, which, being interpreted, becomes divine Consciousness or Christ Consciousness and this is now understood as the consciousness of you and of me.”¹³

¹³ SIOS, p. 85: 2-4

Revelation 21: 1-7

- ¹ *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*
- ² *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*
- ³ *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*
- ⁴ *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*
- ⁵ *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*
- ⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*
- ⁷ *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

“The Metaphysical Dictionary says, ‘Solomon’s Temple is a symbol of the regenerated body of man, which, when he attains it, he will never again leave. This enduring Temple is built in the understanding of Spirit as the one and only cause of all things.’”¹⁴

“What is the spiritual Kingdom or consciousness like, since you have never tasted or touched it in the realm of things or thoughts? That is our next step of realization and you will attain it in proportion to your ability to release yourself from ‘taking thought.’

“One thing is certain: spiritual consciousness is not going to patch up your outworn human experience; it is not going to doctor your ills or add dollars to your income (though it may appear to do just these very things). No – spiritual consciousness will manifest itself in a completely new, vital, spiritual, eternal existence and only the world of humans will see it as improved humanhood. You will see it as it really is – omnipresence.”¹⁵

¹⁴ SIOS, p. 162: 3

¹⁵ SIOS, p. 209, 2-3

Notes: Body