

BIBLE LESSONS

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

Lesson 22: Spiritual Healing

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 22: Spiritual Healing

Part I

Proverbs 23:4-7 – (:)

⁴ *Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.*

⁵ *Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.*

⁶ *Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:*

⁷ *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

“There are not three states of life – the material, the mental and the spiritual. The material and the mental are one, although they constitute two degrees of the same one. Remember, the material and the mental are one. In this stage thoughts are things; beliefs produce conditions.

“Ordinarily in metaphysical teaching, the mental and spiritual are considered one, and therefore, you may have heard or read the term, ‘mentally spiritual.’ Be careful of it because it is dangerous to your progress. There is no such thing as *mentally spiritual* because the mental and physical are two strata or stages of the one; the physical is the more gross; the mental is the higher form, but is still just a higher form of the material. The proof of this may be seen in such statements as ‘thoughts are things’ and ‘as a man thinketh so is he,’ meaning, if he thinks good he will manifest good, and if he thinks evil he will manifest evil. Thinking which produces things and thinking which can produce either good or evil cannot be spiritual.”¹

¹ *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (DeVorss & Company, Twenty-fourth printing, 2003), p. 205: 1-2. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “S/IOS.”

Matthew 6:19-34

- ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
- ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
- ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
- 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?
- ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
- ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
- ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
- ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?
- ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

“Notice that nowhere does it say that thinking will produce spirituality. On the contrary, we are told by the greatest spiritual Light, ‘Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?’ And from Isaiah, ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts.’ In other words, *human* thinking is not spiritual.

“Until you realize that the physical and mental realm are one and that one the mortal and material, you will be looking for your good in the wrong place. ‘Not by might (physical) nor by power (mental) but by my spirit saith the Lord.’ You are not consciously in the spiritual realm or Kingdom of God, harmony, until you rise above things and thoughts. If you feel that this is difficult, you can understand one reason why so few have attained it. Another reason is false teaching. Men have become satisfied when they reached the mental realm, thinking they were in heaven or state of harmony – only to find sooner

or later that they were leaning on a reed. A day comes when they need a right thought, and it doesn't come, or it doesn't work.

"I pray God that you realize that you are listening to the deepest wisdom of the ages – the truth about Heaven, harmony. I can reveal this to you and with patience on the part of you and of me, I can assist you to its realization – but *you* have to accept, to see, to understand and finally to realize and demonstrate this truth of Truth."²

Part II

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-12 – (:)

¹ *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

² *Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

³ *Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

⁶ *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

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:*

"To gain this spiritual awareness of Life and its perfect formations is our purpose in meeting in these pages. We have come together for the one purpose of realizing the God which is Spirit, Soul, Love and eternal Life, and to become conscious of the formations and activities of this Life which is God, this Mind which I AM."³

² SIOS, p. 206: 1-3

³ SIOS, p. 194: 1

Hebrews 4:9-16

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.*

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

“Bit by bit we are giving up our concern for the structural universe and in that proportion we are gaining the awareness of the Life which is incorporeal, harmonious and permanent. By devotion to thoughts and things of the Soul, we lose our concern for the thoughts and things of sense. By cultivating our love for God and the world of ideas, we increase our sense of Love and thereby unfold and reveal more of God or good.

“As our concern for the things of the world lessens, we find ourselves with less anxious thought; and finally instead of thinking thoughts, we become receptive to thoughts and ideas which flow naturally from our Soul to our conscious awareness. We no longer ‘take thought’ to make something happen – but we receive God’s thought unfolding our good every moment. We no longer give treatments or know the Truth to change some erroneous condition into an harmonious one – but rather, in the face of a discordant note, we become silent and receptive; and the illusion or mirage fades out, and the omnipresent harmony is instantly revealed. This silent receptivity makes way for the conscious realization of the presence and activity of the Christ.”⁴

“Christ or the divine idea – omnipotence – omnipresence – is always at hand to guide, direct, lead, govern, support, sustain, maintain, equip. This Christ power is everpresent as our consciousness – but only when the conscious thinking mind is stilled and we are receptive to this omnipresence, do we perceive its activity and its fruitage.

Omnipresence and omnipotence is not something you have to get, pray for, treat for or desire; it is to be realized through silent receptivity. We need not tell It (The Christ) what or who is to be benefited. Just be still, be receptive, be patient. The Christ is the Reality of you and is right where you are – but not discernible through thinking, through either physical or mental force. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’ Not by mental might or physical power; not by mental power or physical might –

⁴ SIOS, p. 195: 1-2

but by my Spirit. Do not strive. Do not struggle. 'The battle is not yours.' Be still. Be quiet. Be patient. Be receptive.

"Is there some mist through which you cannot see at the moment; is there a divine harmony hiding behind some ugly or painful mirage; is there a mesmeric sense keeping out the glorious peace of the Soul? Do not contend against it. Do not strike out mentally to do battle with it. The Christ is here. It is your very own consciousness when human thought is stilled, when human planning and human effort are at an end. Where human effort ends, the activity of the Christ begins. Where human fear ceases, divine courage begins. Where physical might and mental power end, the divine energy of Spirit begins. When your thought is still, God's thought is revealing, and God's thoughts are quick and powerful."⁵

Part III

John 1:1-5, 10-14

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.*

⁴ *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

⁵ *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

¹² *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

¹³ *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

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.*

"The real significance of Jesus' ministry is lost if we do not grasp his statements: 'I can of mine own self do nothing' and 'the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.' Jesus did not say these things in modesty, but as actual facts. There *is* a Christ within the individual and Jesus was always conscious of this Presence, and he found it possible to do nothing of himself, but to *let* this inner Power do all things for him.

"You can readily understand that with the actual awareness of an infinite Power and Presence within him, Jesus did not have to 'take thought' for any detail of his experience. He could always count upon It – depend fully upon It – to provide all things, to heal for him, even to feed five thousand when necessary. It was like the fable of

⁵ *SIOS, p. 196: 1-2*

having a lamp to rub. But it is not a fable, because this Within knows the need even before it becomes humanly apparent.”⁶

Matthew 8:1-10, 13-17

- ¹ When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.
- ² And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.
- ³ And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- ⁴ And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.
- 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.
- ¹⁴ And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.
- ¹⁵ And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.
- ¹⁶ When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:
- ¹⁷ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

“I suppose that at first we need some measure of faith to believe there *is* such a thing as this Christ. No doubt, brought up as we have been, we simply cannot understand that there is more to us than body and thinking capacity. Taught as we have been for so long that we must be ‘go-getters’ – that ‘the early bird catches the worm’ – it must be difficult to realize that there is another Way – spelled with a capital “W” – an infinite Way, or may I say rather, a Way which is infinite, eternal, harmonious, joyful, successful and oh, so real and lasting, leaving no bitterness in the mouth. This infinite Way is Christ, therefore, I AM the Way – or, the Way is I AM.”⁷

⁶ SIOS, p. 171: 2-3

⁷ SIOS, p. 172: 1

John 5:30, 31, 36

³⁰ *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

³¹ *If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.*

³⁶ *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

“We have seen that for metaphysical healing it is necessary to know:

“1. I AM GOD – I exist as infinite spiritual consciousness, embodying within myself the divine idea body, business, home, supply; and my very oneness with God constitutes my oneness with every spiritual idea. Carrying this knowledge into treatment, we realize that regardless of any appearance to the contrary, we are never separate or apart from any form of good.

“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.”⁸

“3. Nature of error. We have learned that the only error or evil is hypnotism, mesmerism, appearing as suggestion or mirage; that when we realize this, the so-called evil – the sin, disease or lack – disappears. We know that error is never person, place or thing – just mesmerism appearing as person, condition or circumstance. Mind or God, being infinite, is the substance and activity of all that appears to us for the moment as error.”⁹

⁸ SIOS, p. 192: 1-3

⁹ SIOS, p. 193-1

Part IV**John 8:28-32**

²⁸ *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

²⁹ *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

³⁰ *As he spake these words, many believed on him.*

³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

“Make way for the realization of the Christ, that Presence and Power which is eternally where you are, awaiting only your invitation – an invitation which is expressed as Silence, Expectancy, Receptivity.

“As the spiritual or intuitive sense becomes more developed, the Christ is realized as one’s higher, or real Self. In proportion as the Christ becomes more apparent, more consciously with you, It takes over, as it were, and becomes the source, activity and motivating Power and Presence of your experience. Life enters a new phase for you.

“There are many human ways of achieving success – involving physical and mental prowess. When Spirit animates one, success in any undertaking is the fruit of the Spirit – never the result of human effort. What human steps and actions are called forth are likewise the result of the action of the Spirit.”¹⁰

John 6:63

⁶³ *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

“Spirit is a Presence which is consciously known and felt, and It ‘feels’ as if It were something separate from oneself. Actually, It is the Self – the real Being – but greater than that which appears and walks like a human. This Spirit is that of which the human is a transparency. The Presence always goes before to prepare the way – to bring about those apparently human circumstances necessary to the achievement.

“The conscious awareness of the Spirit is the Christ which guides and protects every step. It furnishes the wisdom and the supply of all that is needful. The repetition of these

¹⁰ SIOS, p. 197: 1-3

words will accomplish nothing. Unless there is an actual awareness, a real contact, a true assurance – there is no performance of spiritual activity.

“Awareness of the Presence is a state of Grace. It accomplishes all without labor, anxiety, struggle or strife. Note the ease, simplicity and poise which accompanies the man of Spirit. Watch the effortless energy, the carefree attitude of the one who has achieved contact with the Spirit – with the Soul of himself. Note how the world seems to move in unison with him – all working together for the good of the whole.”¹¹

II Corinthians 3:1-6, 17

¹ *Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?*

² *Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:*

³ *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

⁴ *And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:*

⁵ *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;*

⁶ *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

¹⁷ *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

“Life is a glorious adventure when the Spirit has become a living Reality. Life becomes a thing of now. Concern for the future falls away. Each moment of the day provides its own Grace; its own supply of joy, peace, dominion, home, friendships, success.”¹²

¹¹ *SIOS, p. 198: 1-3*

¹² *SIOS, p. 199: 1*

Notes: Spiritual Healing