

BIBLE LESSONS

Compiled by
Virginia Stephenson

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

Lesson 26: Awake and Inherit

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 26: Awake and Inherit

Part I

Ephesians 5:14, 19, 20

¹⁴ *Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

¹⁹ *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

²⁰ *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

“Spiritual Illumination enables us to discern the spiritual reality where the human concept appears to be. Spiritual sense discerns the reality of that which is appearing as concept.

“The development of spiritual consciousness begins with our first realization that what we are beholding through the senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell is not the reality of things. Disregarding appearances entirely, the first ray of spiritual illumination brings us hints of the divine, the eternal and immortal. This in turn makes the appearance even less real to us, thereby admitting even greater illumination.

“Our progress Spiritward is in proportion to the illumination which enables us to behold more and more of Reality. Because the human scene is entirely a misconception through misperception, any thought of helping, healing, correcting, or changing the material picture must be relinquished in order that we may see the ever-present Reality.”¹

Psalms 34:1-8

¹ *I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

² *My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.*

³ *O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*

⁴ *I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

⁵ *They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.*

⁶ *This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*

⁷ *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*

⁸ *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

¹ *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 33: 1-3. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

“Always there have appeared men bearing the divine message of the presence of God and of the unreality of evil: Buddha of India; Lao-Tze of China; Jesus of Nazareth. These and many others brought the light of Truth to men, and always men have interpreted this Light as the messenger, failing to see that what they were beholding as a man ‘out there’ was the light of Truth within their own consciousness.

“In worshiping Jesus, men lost the Christ. In devotion to Jesus, men failed to apprehend the Christ. In seeking good through Jesus, men failed to find the omnipresent Christ in their own consciousness.”²

Isaiah 61:10-11

¹⁰ *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

¹¹ *For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

“Illumined consciousness always knows that there is an infinite, all-powerful Presence prospering every act and blessing every thought. It knows that all who touch us on life’s highway must feel the benediction of our thought.”³

Isaiah 62:1-7

¹ *For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.*

² *And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.*

³ *Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.*

⁴ *Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.*

(continued)

² TIW, p. 36: 2-3

³ TIW, p. 37: 4

⁵ *For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.*

⁶ *I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,*

⁷ *And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

“When consciousness is afire with Truth and Love, it destroys all sense of fear, doubt, hate, envy, disease, and discord – and this pure consciousness is felt by all whom we meet, and it lightens the load they carry. It is impossible to be ‘the light of the world’ and not dispel the darkness of those about us.

“Realize that all the good you experience is the shining forth of your own consciousness even when it appears to come from, or through, some other individual. Recognize every evil appearance as a false perception of harmony and therefore not to be feared or hated, and this will result in the disappearance of the illusion and the showing forth of reality. Only illumined consciousness can look upon an evil appearance and perceive the divine reality. Only the Christ in consciousness can strip error of its seeming reality and rob it of its sting.”⁴

Part II

John 5:19-27

¹⁹ *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

²⁰ *For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

²¹ *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

²² *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

²³ *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

²⁴ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

²⁵ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

²⁶ *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

²⁷ *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

⁴ TIW, p. 38: 1-2

“Illumination dissolves all material ties and binds men together with the golden chains of spiritual understanding; it acknowledges only the leadership of the Christ; it has no ritual or rule but the divine, impersonal, universal love, no other worship than the inner Flame that is ever lit at the shrine of Spirit. This union is the free state of spiritual brotherhood. The only restraint is the discipline of Soul; therefore, we know liberty without license; we are a united universe without physical limits, a divine service to God without ceremony or creed.”⁵

1 John 2:23-25

²³ *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

²⁴ *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

²⁵ *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

“The illumined walk without fear – by Grace.

“To know that we are the fulfillment of God, that we are that place in consciousness where God shines through, is to be spiritually minded. The realization that every individual is the presence of God, that all that is, is God appearing, is spiritual consciousness. The understanding that what we see, hear, taste, touch, or smell through the five physical senses is but the finite concept of reality, and in no wise related to the spiritually real, is spiritual sense.

“Christ-consciousness beholds God everywhere shining through the mist of personal sense. It recognizes no sinner to be reformed, no sick to heal, no poor to enrich. Spiritual illumination dispels the false concepts or images of finite sense and reveals all being as God appearing.”⁶

⁵ *TIW, p. 39: 1*

⁶ *TIW, p. 39: 2-3 and p. 40: 1*

1 John 3:1-3, 13-18

- ¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
- ¹³ Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
- ¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- ¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- ¹⁷ But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
- ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

“There is an invisible bond between all of us. We are not on earth to get from one another, but to share the spiritual treasures which are of God. Our interest in each other is, in truth, purely spiritual. Our purpose in life is the unfolding of the Spirit within.

“From the height of spiritual vision, we do not look upon each other as man or woman as rich or poor, as great or humble. All human values are submerged in our common interest to seek and find the Kingdom within. We see each other as travelers on the path of Light; we share our unfoldments, our experiences, and our spiritual resources. We would not withhold any of these from each other.

“Likewise, there is no envy or jealousy of each other’s spiritual attainments. Let us even for a moment realize that whatever we possess of supply, position, prestige or power, health, beauty, or wealth is the gift of God and, therefore, equally available to all of us in the measure of our openness of consciousness – and you understand how we can carry our impersonal love out into the human world.

“Let us once catch the vision that whatever anyone possesses, even of what appears as material good, is but the expression of his state of consciousness, and it would be impossible to envy another’s possessions, or even to desire them. The first step in living by Grace, living in universal peace, must begin with the understanding that all anyone has is of the Father, that is, all that anyone possesses and all that anyone can ever own is the outpouring of his own infinite consciousness.”⁷

⁷ TIW, p. 145: 4 and p. 146: 1-3

Part III**Matthew 6:19-24**

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.*

“Despite the allness of God, expressed as perfect individual being, there constantly arise in human experience those ills which call forth our understanding of prayer. What is the nature of error, sin, disease? How can such things be and God be all-in-all? Such things cannot be and are not, despite the appearance of pain and discord and sorrow.

“The Bible reveals to us the basic truth of being, namely, that ‘God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.’ In this all-good that God made, there is nothing that ‘defileth . . . or maketh a lie,’ and there is no other creative Principle. It becomes clear then that that which is appearing as error, sin, disease, pain, and discord is illusion, mirage, or nothingness.

“Let us then, as part of our prayer, remember that God made (evolved) all that was made, and in this universe of God there is only the All-Presence and All-Power of God, divine Love, and therefore that which at the moment appears to us as error is a false sense of reality.

“There comes a time in our experience when spiritual inspiration reveals to individual consciousness a state of being free of mortal conditions and beliefs. Then we no longer live a life of mental affirmations and denials, but rather receive constant unfoldments of truth from Consciousness. Sometimes this comes through no other channel than our own thought. It may come through a book or lecture or a service imparted by divine Consciousness. Regardless of the seeming channel through which it may come, it is the divine Consciousness revealing Itself to individual consciousness.”⁸

⁸ *TIW, p. 104: 1 and p. 105: 1-3*

1 Peter 1:3, 4, 22-25-(.)

- ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- ⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*
- ²² *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*
- ²³ *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*
- ²⁴ *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*
- ²⁵ *But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.*

“As we become more and more consciously aware of our oneness with the universal, or Christ-mind, whatever desires or needs come to us bring with them their fulfillment of every righteous thought and wish. Is it not clear, then, that our oneness with Consciousness having been established ‘in the beginning’ through the relationship forever existing between God and His manifested being, it requires no conscious effort to bring about or maintain? The awareness of this truth is the connecting link with divine Consciousness.”⁹

James 1:13-18

- ¹³ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*
- ¹⁴ *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*
- ¹⁵ *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
- ¹⁶ *Do not err, my beloved brethren.*
- ¹⁷ *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*
- ¹⁸ *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

⁹ TIW, p. 106: 1

“Through meditation, we become aware of the presence of the Christ, and this awareness remains with us all day and all night as we go about our human existence. This awareness enters into our every experience and prospers every endeavor. This consciousness of the presence of the Christ is a light unto our feet and a guiding star unto our aspirations. It is the Presence that goes before us to make the crooked places straight. It is the quality in our consciousness that makes us understood and appreciated by others.

“On awakening in the morning, and preferably before you get out of bed, turn your thought to the realization that ‘I and my Father are one. . . . Son . . . all that I have is thine . . . The place whereon thou standest is holy ground’; and then let the meaning of these statements unfold from within your own consciousness. Gain a conviction of your oneness with the Father, with the universal Life, the universal Consciousness. Feel the infinity of good within you which is the evidence of your oneness with the infinite Source of your being.”¹⁰

“Whenever you leave one place to go to another place, such as leaving your home for business or leaving your business for church or going back to your home, pause for a second to realize that the Presence has gone before you to prepare the way, and that that same divine Presence remains behind you as a benediction to all who pass that way. At first you may forget to do this many times during the day, but by jogging your memory you will eventually find that this will become an established activity of your consciousness and you will never make a move without realizing the divine Presence ahead of you and behind you, and in this way you will find yourself to be the light of the world.”¹¹

Part IV

Isaiah 60:1-4

¹ *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

² *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

³ *And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

⁴ *Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.*

“Our task is the realization of the Christ of our own consciousness. We acknowledge with joy and deep love the measure of the Christ attained not only by Jesus, but by many spiritual seers and prophets of all ages. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the measure of the Christ manifested by so many men and women of today. We now look forward to the realization of the Christ of our own consciousness. ‘The kingdom of God is

¹⁰ *TIW, p. 93: 3 and p. 94: 1*

¹¹ *TIW, p. 97: 2*

in you and he who searches for it outside himself will never find it, for apart from God no one can either seek or find God, for he who seeks God, already in truth has Him.'

"We must understand the word 'consciousness' because we can only prove what we are conscious of. Where do we stand in consciousness? Are we still mortals? Or have we renounced our material selfhood and acknowledged ourselves to be the Christ, the fulfillment, the presence of God? Some day we must give up the effort to get and acknowledge ourselves to be the eternal Giver in action. We must feed five thousand without taking thought as to whence it shall come. Out of our Christhood, the multitudes can be supplied. Wherein then is lack except in the belief that we are humans? We must give up this belief and claim our true identity."¹²

Isaiah 64:4,5-1st(:)

⁴ *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*

⁵ *Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways:*

"When we are confronted with any person or circumstance that appears to be mortal, we must realize, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,' and that all that appears as mortality is illusion or nothingness. We will fear no mortal and no material circumstance because we recognize its nothingness.

"Truth is simple. There are no deep metaphysics or mysterious truths. It is either truth or not truth, but there cannot be deep truth and shallow truth, nor can there be degrees of truth. Truth to be truth must be absolute truth. We are concerned now with the truth that we individualize infinite power. We must not look to a power outside of, or apart from, ourselves. We individualize infinite power in proportion to our consciousness of Truth."¹³

¹² *TIW, p. 55: 2 and p. 56: 1*

¹³ *TIW, p. 57: 1-2*

Isaiah 65:9, 17-19, 21-25

⁹ *And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.*

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

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

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

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

²² *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

²³ *They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

²⁴ *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

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

“We are all ‘joint-heirs with Christ’ in God; therefore, we all draw upon the resources of our own infinite consciousness and Soul, and we need not labor, strive, or struggle for that which is already divinely ours. All that anyone possesses at any time, even of what seems to be of human value, is the unfoldment of his own state of consciousness and, therefore, belongs only to the possessor. That which we have is the result of the fruitage of our own state of consciousness; and what we have not yet achieved is our own lack of conscious union with God, our infinite Consciousness.

“We can have as much of everything as we desire by enlarging the borders of our understanding and realization. Nothing that we can get from another would ever really be ours, even if we received it legally. It would still belong only to the one with the consciousness of it. What is ours is eternally ours, but ours only because it is our state of consciousness in expression.

“All that the Father, my very own infinite Consciousness, has is mine.

“The realization of this truth would enable all men to live together in one world harmoniously, joyously, successfully – without fear of one another and without greed, envy, or lust. We would be back in the Garden of Eden. We would live without taking thought, which is by Grace. This would constitute the recognition of life as the gift of God – as the free flow of our consciousness. It would reveal the invisible spiritual tie which

binds us in an eternal brotherhood of Love. It would forever solve the problem of supply and thereby establish the reign of peace on earth.”¹⁴

¹⁴ *TIW*, p. 147: 1-2 and p. 148: 1-2

Notes: Awake and Inherit