

BIBLE LESSONS

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

Lesson 28: Christmas – Spiritual Sonship

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 28: Christmas – Spiritual Sonship

Part I

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

² *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

“To many, the word Christ persists as a more or less mysterious term, an unknown entity, something rarely if ever experienced by them. This, we must change if we are to benefit by the revelation of a divine Presence or Power within us which has been revealed to us by Christ Jesus as well as by many others. We must experience the Christ as a permanent and continuous dispensation. We must live in the constant conscious awareness of truth active within, maintaining always a receptive attitude – a listening ear – and soon we shall experience an inner awareness. This is the activity of Truth in consciousness, or the Christ attained.”¹

John 3:5-8, 13-16

⁵ *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

⁶ *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

⁷ *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

⁸ *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

¹³ *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

¹⁴ *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

¹⁵ *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹ *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 52: 1. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

“To receive the word of God or spiritual sense, we need to feel rather than reason. This is referred to biblically as receiving the word ‘in the heart.’ Note here that the development of spiritual consciousness results in a greater gift of feeling the harmony of being. We understand that neither seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, nor smelling will reveal spiritual truth or its harmonies to us; therefore, it must come through a different faculty, the intuitive faculty which acts through feeling. Heretofore, we have sat down to pray or to meditate and immediately a stream of words and thoughts started to flow. Perhaps we began to affirm truth and deny error. You can see that this is wholly in the realm of the human mind.

“In cultivating our spiritual sense we become receptive to thoughts which come to us from within. We become hearers of the Word rather than speakers. We become so attuned to Spirit that we feel the divine harmony of being; we feel the actual presence of God. Having transcended the five physical senses, our intuitive faculty is alert, receptive and responsive to the things of the Spirit, and we begin our new existence as a result of this spiritual rebirth.”²

“Heretofore, we have been concerned with the letter of truth, now only with the spirit of truth. We are not so concerned now with what is truth as with feeling truth. This is accomplished in proportion as we give less thought to the letter and more receptivity to the feel. This word ‘feel’ incidentally, refers also to the awareness, consciousness, or a sense of truth. We are not now speaking truth but receiving truth, and that which we receive in silence we may speak from the housetops with authority.”³

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

¹⁰ *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

¹¹ *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

¹² *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

¹³ *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

¹⁴ *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

¹⁵ *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

¹⁶ *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.*

² TIW, p. 29: 1-2

³ TIW, p. 30: 1

“This understanding of the Christ clarifies the subject of prayer for us. The dictionary definitions of prayer all conform to a concept of prayer which is based on the erroneous belief that there is a God waiting somewhere for us to pray to in some manner. Then, if we should find this God in the right frame of mind, we might have our prayers answered favorably; unless of course, our parents or grandparents for three or four generations back have sinned, in which case we would be held accountable for their sins, and our prayer would go into the wastebasket of heaven.”⁴

John 15:15,16

¹⁵ *Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

¹⁶ *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

“We have a different sense of prayer. We realize that whatever of good comes to us is the direct result of our own understanding of the nature of our own being. Our understanding of spiritual life unfolds in proportion to our receptivity to Truth, not praying up to God, but *letting* God unfold and reveal Itself to us. This is the higher concept of prayer. It is achieved as we take a few minutes now and then during the day and evening to meditate, commune, listen. In quietness, we become a state of receptivity which opens the way for us to feel or become aware of the very presence of God. This feel, or awareness, is the activity of God, Truth, in our consciousness – it is the Christ, the Reality of us.”⁵

“The mind that was in Christ Jesus is not afar off, nor is it the mind of only a few great religious leaders: The mind that was in Christ Jesus is your mind and it is ready to impart itself to you as you forget self and become receptive to the divine wisdom within you. The resources of Soul are waiting at the door of your consciousness ready to pour forth more than you can accept, but not to satisfy some personal or selfish desire. These false desires are the stumbling blocks to our spiritual development, and we must not think to use our spiritual powers to gain personal and selfish ends. The song of the Soul is freedom, joy, and eternal bliss; the song of the Soul is love to all mankind; the song of the Soul is you.”⁶

⁴ *TIW, p. 52: 2*

⁵ *TIW, p. 53: 1*

⁶ *TIW, p. 85: 1*

Part II***Isaiah 11:1-10***

- ¹ *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*
- ² *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*
- ³ *And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*
- ⁴ *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*
- ⁵ *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*
- ⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*
- ⁷ *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*
- ⁸ *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*
- ⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
- ¹⁰ *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

“Our real existence is as Spirit, and only in the degree that we perceive our real existence as Spirit, do we drop the false sense of life as material. Then we see that the structural life of man, animal, and plant is but the false sense of existence; that our concern for the so-called necessities of material living has been unnecessary; that although the beauties we behold all hint at God’s creation, they are not that spiritual and perfect creation; that the sick, aging, dying appearances are not at all a part of real life. When we arrive at this state of consciousness, we begin to catch glimpses of eternal spiritual existence, untouched by material conditions or mortal thoughts. As we turn from the world we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell, we catch inspired visions which show forth the earth of God’s creating.

“In healing work, we must turn from the structural universe which we see. We must remember that we are not called upon to heal it, change it, alter it, correct it, or save it. We are first of all to realize that it exists only as illusion, as the false sense of life. From this vantage point in consciousness, we behold through spiritual sense the ‘house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.’”⁷

⁷ *TIW, p. 61: 1-2*

John 1:29-34

²⁹ *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

³⁰ *This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.*

³¹ *And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.*

³² *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.*

³³ *And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.*

³⁴ *And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God . . . Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth . . . But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’

“How often do we go on the rocks on this point! How frequently do we attempt to understand spiritual wisdom with our human intellect! This leads to mental indigestion because we are attempting to digest spiritual food with our educated mentality. It will not work. Truth is not a reasoning process; therefore, it must be spiritually discerned. Truth does not as a rule appeal to our reason, and when it appears to do so, we must search deeply to see if it really is truth. Be suspicious of a truth that seems reasonable.

“Jesus, walking on the water, feeding the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes, healing the sick and raising the dead – does all this seem reasonable to you? If the principle underlying these experiences could be understood through reason, all the churches would be teaching it as a present possibility and they would recommend its practice. But this principle is apparent only to spiritual sense, and this cultivated spiritual consciousness can do the things that the Christ has ever done. What was possible to Christ-consciousness in Jesus’ time is possible to that same Consciousness now.”⁸

⁸ *TIW, p. 27: 1-3*

John 6:41-63

- ⁴¹ *The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.*
- ⁴² *And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?*
- ⁴³ *Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.*
- ⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- ⁴⁵ *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*
- ⁴⁶ *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*
- ⁴⁷ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*
- ⁴⁸ *I am that bread of life.*
- ⁴⁹ *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*
- ⁵⁰ *This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.*
- ⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*
- ⁵² *The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?*
- ⁵³ *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*
- ⁵⁴ *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- ⁵⁵ *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*
- ⁵⁶ *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*
- ⁵⁷ *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*
- ⁵⁸ *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*
- ⁵⁹ *These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.*
- ⁶⁰ *Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*
- ⁶¹ *When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?*
- ⁶² *What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?*
- 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.*

“We now are engaged in the cultivation of that spiritual sense and we shall succeed in proportion as we relax our mental struggle and become receptive to those things which the Spirit of God teaches. Instead of trying to make Spirit operate upon our human bodies and material affairs, let us learn to disregard these mortal pictures and keep our

vision on things above. When we ‘come down to earth again,’ we shall find the discords and limitations of sense disappearing and more of reality appearing.”⁹

“We come now to face our orthodox superstitions and to leave them. Was Jesus sent into the world by God to save it from sin, disease, or slavery? No, God, infinite Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, knows no error, no evil, no sin, and no sinner. Jesus so clearly apprehended this truth that this apprehension became the Saviour, healer, teacher even as it will in you. *The activity of Truth in individual consciousness is the only Christ.* No person is ever the Christ. The activity of Truth in individual consciousness constitutes the only Christ, the ever-present Christ who was ‘before Abraham.’ The activity of Truth in your consciousness is the Christ of you. The activity of Truth in the consciousness of the Buddha revealed the nature of sin, disease, and death to be illusion, or mirage. The activity of Truth in the consciousness of Jesus Christ revealed the nothingness of matter; it unfolded as a healing consciousness before which sin and disease disappeared and death was overcome. Every erroneous concept, whether of body or business, health or church, must disappear as the right idea of these appears in individual and collective consciousness.”¹⁰

“Let the activity of Truth in your consciousness be your first and last and only concern, and the Christ of you will also reveal Itself in an individual, infinite way.”¹¹

Part III

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

“What about the immaculate conception, or spiritual birth? The immaculate conception, or spiritual birth, is the dawning in individual consciousness of the activity of Truth, or the Christ-idea. It appeared in Jesus as the revelation that ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life . . . I am the resurrection, and the life . . . He that seeth me seeth him that sent me.’ The activity of Truth in my consciousness, the Christ of me, is revealing that I am individual, infinite, spiritual consciousness embodying my universe, including my body, my health, wealth, practice, income, home, companionship, eternity, and immortality.”¹²

⁹ *TIW, p. 28: 1*

¹⁰ *TIW, p. 115: 3*

¹¹ *TIW, p. 117: 1*

¹² *TIW, p. 116: 1*

Luke 1:26-35

- ²⁶ *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,*
- ²⁷ *To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*
- ²⁸ *And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*
- ²⁹ *And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*
- ³⁰ *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.*
- ³¹ *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*
- ³² *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*
- ³³ *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*
- ³⁴ *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*
- ³⁵ *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

“There is no evil. Let us therefore stop the resistance to the particular discord or inharmony of human existence which now confronts us. These apparent discords will disappear as we are able to cease our resistance to them. We are able to do this only in proportion to our realization of the spiritual nature of the universe. Since this is true, it is evident that neither heaven nor earth can contain error of any nature, and therefore the unillumined human thought is seeing error in the very place where God shines through, discord where harmony is, hate where love abounds, and fear where confidence really is.”¹³

¹³ TIW, p. 117: 2

Revelation 12:1-5, 9, 10 (:)

¹ *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

² *And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

³ *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

⁴ *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

⁵ *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

⁹ *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ:*

“A universal illusion binds us to earth – to temporal conditions. Realize this, understand this, because only through this understanding can we begin to lessen its hold upon us. The more fascinated we are with conditions of human good and the greater our desire for even the good things of the flesh, the more intense is the illusion. In proportion as our thought dwells on God, on things of the Spirit, the greater the freedom from limitation we are gaining. Think neither on the discords nor on the harmonies of this world. Let us not fear the evil nor love the good of human existence. In proportion as we accomplish this, is the mesmeric influence lessening in our experience. Earth ties begin to disappear; shackles of limitation fall away; erroneous conditions give place to spiritual harmony; death gives way to eternal life.”¹⁴

“We are not bound by the evidence of the physical senses; we are not limited to the visible supply; we are not circumscribed by visible bonds or bounds; we are not tied by visible concepts of time or space. Our good is flowing from the infinite invisible realm of Spirit, Soul, to our immediate apprehension. Let us not judge of our good by any so-called sensible evidence. Out of the tremendous resources of our Soul comes the instant awareness of all that we can utilize for abundant living. No good thing is withheld from us as we look above the physical evidence to the great Invisible. Look up, look up! The kingdom of heaven is at hand!”¹⁵

“I am breaking the sense of limitation for you as an evidence of My presence and of My influence in your experience. I – the I of you – am in the midst of you revealing the harmony and infinity of spiritual existence. I – the I of you – never a personal sense of ‘I’ – never a person – but the I of you – am ever with you. Look up.”¹⁶

¹⁴ *TIW, p. 181: 2*

¹⁵ *TIW, p. 182: 2*

¹⁶ *TIW, p. 183: 1*

Part IV**John 14:13, 18, 19, 26, 27**

¹³ *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

¹⁸ *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

¹⁹ *Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*

²⁶ *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

²⁷ *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

“When confronted with any human problem, instead of laboring for an improved human condition, turn from the picture and realize the presence of the divine Spirit in you. This Spirit dissolves the human seeming and reveals spiritual harmony, though to sight this harmony will appear as improved human health or wealth. When Jesus fed the multitude, it was his spiritual consciousness of abundance that appeared as loaves and fishes. When he healed the sick, it was his feeling of the divine Presence that appeared as health, strength, and harmony.

“This may all be summed up in Paul’s words: ‘Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.’

“We are living in a spiritual universe, but the finite sense has set a picture before us of limitation. While thought is on the picture before us – ‘this world’ – we are engaged in the constant effort to improve or change it. As soon as we lift our vision – take thought off what we shall eat and drink and wear – we begin to behold spiritual reality which appears to us as improved beliefs, but which really is more-appearing of reality. This more-appearing reality brings with it joys untold here and now, pleasures beyond our wildest imagination and the love of all with whom we come in contact, even the love of those who do not know the source of the new life we have discovered.”¹⁷

¹⁷ *TIW, p. 25, 2 and p. 26: 1-2*

Acts 3: 1-16

- ¹ Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.
- ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;
- ³ Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.
- ⁴ And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.
- ⁵ And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
- ⁶ Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
- ⁷ And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
- ⁸ And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.
- ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God:
- ¹⁰ And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.
- ¹¹ And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.
- ¹² And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
- ¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.
- ¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;
- ¹⁵ And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.
- ¹⁶ And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you.”¹⁸

¹⁸ TIW, p. 26: 3

Romans 8:1-6

¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

³ *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

⁴ *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

⁵ *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

⁶ *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

“When the Christ dawns in individual consciousness, the personal sense of self diminishes. This Christ becomes our real being. We have no desires, no will, no power of our own. The Christ overshadows our personal selfhood. We still perceive in the background this finite sense, and at times it tries to assert itself and even dominate the scene. ‘For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do,’ says Paul.”¹⁹

“But let it be clear to you that the personal self cannot heal, teach, or govern harmoniously. It must be held in abeyance in order that the Christ may have full dominion within our consciousness.

“The work that is done with the letter of truth, with declarations and so-called treatments, is insignificant compared with what is accomplished when we have surrendered our will and action to the Christ.

“The Christ comes to our consciousness most clearly in those moments when we come face to face with problems for which we have no answer and no power with which to surmount them, and we realize that ‘I can of mine own self do nothing.’ In these moments of self-effacement, the gentle Christ overshadows us, permeates our consciousness, and brings the ‘peace, be still’ to the troubled mind.”²⁰

“In this Christ, we find rest, peace, comfort, and healing. The unlabored power of spiritual sense possesses us, and discords and inharmonies fade away as darkness disappears with the coming of light. Indeed, it is comparable only to the breaking of dawn; and the gradual influx of divine Light colors the scenes in our mind and dispels one by one the illusions of sense, the darker places in human thought.

“The stress of daily living would deprive us of this great Spirit unless we are careful to retire often into the sanctuary of our inner being and there let the Christ be our honored guest.

¹⁹ *TIW, p. 129: 2*

²⁰ *TIW, p. 129: 3-5*

“Never let vain conceit or a belief in personal power keep you from this sacred experience. Be willing. Be receptive. Be still.”²¹

²¹ *TIW, p. 130: 1-3*

Notes: Christmas – Spiritual Sonship