

Monthly Lesson March 2015

"The Wonder Worker – The Christ" ¹ Tape 2, Side 1 continued

As we forgive, we are forgiven, and those qualities in others with which we are not in agreement disappear from our awareness. As long as there is no conflict within us, those qualities have no power. Eventually, as we forgive seventy times seven, a healing takes place and that healing is always within ourselves. A practitioner never heals or changes anyone. He or she is in the business of seeing through appearances to the real Self, and this is an adventure in living the mystical life of Oneness.

Not everyone is attuned to mystical prayer. If someone comes to a practitioner thinking that there is a patient, a practitioner, and a God, and that the practitioner has a little more understanding or knowledge of God and can influence God – that belief can prolong the healing. But there is no God separate and apart from man. A practitioner has accepted Oneness and knows that God appears as individual being. He or she is living in the realization of only one Self, one Ego, one *I*, one Us. As different states and stages of this one Consciousness appear in the experience of the illumined Consciousness, the practitioner is always seeing through limited personal sense to that Christ Self, that purity of Being, recognizing that wonderful Nature that is fulfilling Itself as God on earth. If he or she is attuned, the individual who comes for help receives help and is set free.

So those who present themselves for help must function from the principle of Oneness, not from the thought that there is God, man and a practitioner, or God and a patient – but from the principle that God constitutes individual being, and even if I cannot understand or see it. I will take it on faith that this is so: God, the creative principle, has made all creation from His own nature, character and substance. There cannot be an activity apart from God or a substance apart from God. There can only be God appearing as. Then, by not interpreting what we see as good or evil, success or failure, desirable or undesirable, rather making no judgment and adhering to the divine principle of Oneness, this wonderful Presence in us, the Wonder Worker, the Christ, reveals harmony.

If we didn't understand our own divine Nature, mystical living would seem so impractical and would lead us nowhere! An individual trying to live by taking thought for his life and who believes in two powers, a God up in Heaven, and a savior living two thousand years ago, would find it really very difficult and unintelligent to try to live mystically. Mystical living is only for those who are awakened to the fact that Christ lives, Christ walks the earth, and that Christ is here as much today as He was here with Christ Jesus. In fact, Jesus Christ is here today. One who has completely yielded himself to the Divine until

¹ 1983 Asilomar Retreat, Tape 2, (8348), Side 1 continued

there is no other nature but the Divine nature certainly could not go anyplace and would have to be present here and now as the Tree of Life.²

So mystical living depends on our understanding that "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the *world.*" ³ This He is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." ⁴ Mystical living is based on the principle that God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is One, and that One is the only Ego, Self, Life, Intelligence or Love that there is. That is the basis of mysticism and mystical living. Therefore, we do not use our mind as the natural man must use his mind, judging after appearances. Instead we use our mind as an instrument of awareness through which our Soul faculties work. Our Soul faculties are intuition and spiritual discernment – spiritual seeing, hearing, sensing and feeling. Spiritual feeling is not a human emotion; it is an inner peace and a great joy that no man can take away.

Spiritual feeling has in it none of the fluctuation that human emotion has. Human emotions depend on objects and on our response to the knowable, seeable and audible, and we fluctuate according to concepts of good/evil in our life. All that we behold are our own mental projections. If we are living on the level of material sense in our human nature, we are seeing the world's pictures and we respond to the world's view. As we read the newspaper, listen to current events, and judge according to appearances, we respond to the mental projections of the universal human mind, but as we function from the principle of Oneness, we do not respond to the world's view, but rather to the Truth as we are united to the great Mediator, the living Christ who reveals Truth and Love.

Let's turn to the Bible for a revelation of this Truth. In Athens, Paul found men worshiping on Mars' hill. They were at a pedestal but no form was erected on the pedestal. At that particular time, Greek Gods had human form so there was usually a human form with the name of a God on it – God of War, God of Love, God of the Sea, etc. Behind that mythology was a truth that God appeared as man but not clearly revealed so that each God was humanized and given human characteristics of love and hate, anger, destruction, war, preservation, etc. But the men Paul found were sitting on a pedestal with no form that had an inscription to the unknown God. These were thinkers who had no form to worship. Paul said to them:

Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious [by superstition, Paul meant 'great intuition']. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. [Paul realized they had not made an image or concept of God.] Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's

² Recommend students read "Tree of Life" in Part Three, <u>Parenthesis</u> in Eternity, Joel S. Goldsmith

³ 1 John 4:4

⁴ Isaiah 9:7

hands, as though he needed any thing [God needs no burnt offerings, flowers, fruit, sacrificial lambs, rites or rituals], seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us [though He is not separated from us]: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."⁵

"For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." Here Paul was telling not only these people but all posterity that God is not worshipped in temples because *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* ⁶ All there is, God made. We are in His temple at all times. We only need to look up at the Heavens to know that the earth is His temple – *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."*

We are here to be living witnesses. Scripture tells us that God fills all space. How could God be confined to a book, a word, a thought, a concept, a room or a temple, an altar, a rite or ritual regardless of its beauty? It cannot be done. The mystic is not one who typically worships in a church, but one who feels the presence of God in all Its glory and greatness when we are in the wilderness or in nature and this is where the God experiences take place. My experience with Joel did not take place as we were meditating. As I put my foot into the car to take Joel to lunch, the heavens opened and I saw the Holy One. This was not inside a house with my eyes closed, or during meditation although that may well have been a preparation. Joel had this experience, and since this was in his consciousness, the experience came to me. It was an activity of divine Consciousness revealing Itself to Itself and as Itself.

When Joel communed, he couldn't wait to sit under the stars or in the sunshine. So God does not have to be worshiped in "holy" places - "the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."⁸ In the front of each of his books is the quote: "Illumination dissolves all material ties," all material ties to religious concepts, and religious beliefs "and binds men together with the golden chains of spiritual understanding." Wasn't that what Paul was doing? He said, "the Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Just think if we could really all see ourselves as brothers! But what stands in the way? Ideology and religious concepts. What are the wars going on in the Far East

⁵ Acts 17:22-29

⁶ Psalm 24:1

⁷ Psalm 19:1

⁸ Exodus 3:5

being fought for? Religion. What is the war between communism and the rest of the world? It is about religion, isn't it? It is the struggle between atheism and religion.

The mystic can dissolve that. Not by going into churches, but by showing mankind what freedom is, that religion is of the heart, and worship is done moment to moment as an attitude and altitude of prayer. The mystic is a leaven who recognizes the same truth in the original founders of every great religion. Over the centuries, religions have crystalized into rigid, formal ideologies and when this happens, we see war and conflict. When we live on the personal level, we tend to be exclusive; when we live spiritually and mystically, we know our oneness with all men - Catholic, Christian, Jew, Moslem – because those are labels, conditioning that has clothed mankind. Now we want to be unclothed, divested of all this nonessential ideology so that we can worship silently, secretly and sacredly in the temple of our own Being. If two or more are gathered together as we are here for renewal and inspiration, when we leave, we carry with us this inner peace, this freedom, this joy, and this is the "illumination that dissolves all material ties and binds men together with the golden chains of spiritual understanding."

This illumination acknowledges only the leadership of the Christ. Christ in Hindu is Krishna, meaning the anointed one of God, the divine Self, the divine Nature. So we are listening and acknowledging the leadership of our own divine Nature - "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" with only the leadership of the Christ.

Dear Friend.

"Behold, I make all things new." ⁹ Within us is this living Presence that makes all things NEW. The old concepts of yesterday that carry fear, guilt, anger and disappointment fall away in the blessed Now moment. This is freedom in Christ.

As we practice the Presence, living in the moment, the new Heaven and new Earth appear and unfold. In this now-ness of Being, all things are made new.

This month I will attend John's Maui class and it will be a joy to see old and new friends on this Way.

Aloha, Virginia

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⁹ Revelation 21:5