



VIRGINIA STEPHENSON

Monthly Lesson
May 2013

“Removing Barriers”¹

What came to me in meditation this morning was to talk about the function of the mind and how Love can roll away the barriers. In truth and in principle, we know that there is only one Mind and It is unconditioned and pure. Mind is the substance and activity that expresses as bone, blood, skin, and tissues. According to scientists, we have an entirely new body every year, and in some cases, a new organ in several months. This is so if we do not personalize beliefs, labeling them good and evil and thereby conditioning the mind and our experience.

When we condition the mind with beliefs labeled good and evil and hold on to this conditioning, we put up barriers to the spontaneous regenerative activity of Mind. We speak of conditioned, personalized mind as carnal mind, the fleshly mind or the mortal mind. This doesn't mean that there is a mortal mind – we are speaking of just the conditioning of good and evil that we hold as beliefs and opinions. So nothing really negative is locked into the mind, because the universal Mind is impersonal, universal and functions by Law. It is an avenue of awareness for God, Consciousness. In Consciousness is the grand design; everything is in

Consciousness – the design of our universe including spiritual ideas and mankind. When these divine Ideas flow through this unconditioned and pure universal Mind and meet up against personal sense, then there is a limited view of this spontaneous flow of spiritual ideas and the perfection of Being. So we are told that we must purify our minds by dying daily to personal sense so that we can have *“this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”²*

There are two aspects to purification of the mind. Remember, we are purifying ourselves so that we are not injecting into this pure state of Being human beliefs that would deflect that perfect expression. In the Sermon on the Mount, the Master shows us how to purify our mentality: *“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you.*

“If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to

² Philippians 2:5

¹ 1993 Maui Class, Tape III (9303), Side 1

*them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For He is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.”*³

This is the way to purify our thinking so that we can see if we measure up to this yardstick given in the Sermon on the Mount. Again: *“Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”*⁴

*“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Please, brother, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ yet cannot even see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*⁵ This is purification. Every one of us must ponder this Sermon because this way does not come to us naturally. If we expect this spiritual flow through the one universal Infinite Mind, renewing and regenerating our body, relationships, home and supply of health and abundance, we must ask ourselves: “Am I living in accordance with God’s law, or am I putting up barriers?” The other necessary activity in our purification is

³ Luke 6:27-36 (Good News Translation)

⁴ Luke 6: 37-38

⁵ Luke 6:41-42

meditation. When we meditate, our attitude is “Father, create in me a new heart and a new mind.” Then in our meditations, the Spirit of God dissolves in us those barriers of material sense. It will either dissolve them or bring them to our attention so that we can impersonalize and nothingize what we are doing and correct our own attitudes. These are all attitudes; prayer is an attitude, an atmosphere and an altitude.

The altitude of prayer is *“I and my Father are one”*⁶ but if God’s grace shines on the just and the unjust, and the saint and the sinner alike, that means that God’s love is impartial and universal, and therefore our own attitudes must reflect the same standard of perfection because the Master said, *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”*⁷ This means perfection according to universal Love and spiritual Law, not human standards. When our mind has been purified of human aspects such as the belief in two powers, we will catch a glimpse of the universality of Love and align ourselves with the same altitude and attitude. Then we no longer have a conditioned mind, a mortal mind, or a carnal mind - we have that one infinite, universal, unconditioned Mind that spontaneously reveals the pattern of living revealed on the mountaintop of Revelation. *“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”*⁸

God is begetting Itself moment-to-moment and spontaneously through the one infinite Mind as creation. This Mind is universal. The moment we personalize

⁶ John 10:30

⁷ Matthew 5:48

⁸ Genesis 1:31

Mind, we have made it into a mortal mind in our own experience and limited it. When we function as a state of receptivity and conscious awareness of the indwelling presence of God, the mind becomes an avenue of awareness through which spiritual ideas of truth and love unfold.

So this is rolling the stone away! Then, the “*stone cut out of the mountain without hands*”⁹ destroys material sense. This living stone is the Christ activity in individual consciousness that destroys all error and opens the door to immortality. Our part is to be obedient to the attitudes given to us in scripture – to align ourselves in oneness but also remain open so that the Holy Spirit can dissolve in us or bring to our attention those hidden qualities of thought that would undermine harmonious living.

Then we have another instruction – a revelation by Paul about Love:

“I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or

selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

*When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as God's knowledge of me. Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.”*¹⁰

So you see how important it is to ponder Love. I know from experience that it is only as we invite the Holy Spirit into our experience in meditation that the capacity to love in this unselfish way is revealed in us. There is a wonderful sentence in one of Joel's letters, “God is expressing Itself through us and as us to the extent of our capacity to receive and accept.” In meditation, we are increasing our capacity to receive. Think of the ocean – it is infinite in its depth, breadth and width, and we can have a teaspoon, a cup, or a tubful of ocean.

⁹ Daniel 2:45

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 13, (Good News Translation)

When we go within to the Kingdom of God, let us not have the attitude “give me a little help or awareness” because God is indivisible, He can’t give you “a little.” We must ask for ALL. God, divine Consciousness, can only give Itself and that Self is universal and impartial. So if we are functioning on a very personal and partial level, the door is closed to this great gift of Love because It is wholly impersonal, universal and applicable to saint and sinner alike. Scripture says, “*For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*”¹¹

So when you ask, ask for ALL: “Father, purify my mind and body so that I may be an instrument for thy Grace.” Your soul doesn’t need purification because that part of you that we call the soul is God, Spirit, and It is much greater than the Mind. Your Soul is pure. It is the mental realm that is so impure, limited, and sexist, for example, we think as “women” or “men.” But God’s thoughts are not ours because His thoughts are universal and impartial. When God’s thoughts come to us, they apply to all – the Truth is always applicable to men, women, children, animals, birds or flowers. Truth is universal.

If we are to receive our birthright, “*Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine,*”¹² we must be in the same unconditioned, universal state of mind in which this universal, impartial Love, the Source of all Good pours through us and as us.

¹¹ Matthew 7:8

¹² Luke 15:31

Dear Friend:

Joel has said that the chapter, “Unconditioned Mind” in The Thunder of Silence is one of the most important chapters in all his books. So this month, let us review this chapter so that we can demonstrate this unconditioned Mind and watch the way Love dissolves all the misconceptions we may unknowingly entertain. This is the way of Grace.

It is not easy to live between two worlds and maintain our spiritual integrity. It takes conscious awareness of our motives, thoughts, and speech. As we become more awake, we are more vigilant and watchful, and we experience more Divine Grace.

Aloha,

Virginia

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