



Monthly Lesson
May 2014

“Surrendering Human History”¹

There is a question on the desk: “The Master has told us to sow to the Spirit and reap Life everlasting. *‘For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.’*² The Bible also says: *‘...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.’*³ I understand Joel’s point about karmic law, past lives and not being a Law of God, but I’m having trouble seeing Joel’s point about sowing and reaping. Shall we not reap what we sow?” Yes, except when we have died daily to personal sense. Then, we live by grace and truth.

Here we have been given an absolute principle about the *I*. If it is true that there is only one *I* and that *I* is God, then who sows and who reaps? If we come back to the application of this truth, living between two worlds, identifying with the body and calling the body “*I*,” then we have set up a selfhood apart from

God. Isn’t that the whole problem of existence? We have set up an *I*, identifying with this body, rather than seeing this body as the expression of invisible Reality, invisible Life. This invisible Reality or Life is God. If we recognize that this is true and there is no personal I-thought in our mind, we will flow with love because God is love. This is our natural spiritual estate – to love. There is no fear or self-preservation in love because fear and self-preservation are based on the *I* that we have set up that identifies with the body. Then we give this *I* we have personally set up a problem. All of this is supposition and mental projection, and it is not what really IS. “Is alone overcomes the world.”⁴

When we are in the silence of Being that we experience in our meditation, there is no *I* separate and apart from God. We are experiencing Intelligence expressing Itself, Life expressing Itself, and Consciousness expressing Itself. If we leave it there, It will flow; impartations will come to us because Consciousness is not static. It flows; It is movement, unfoldment, revelation, and inspiration. And so we will “sow” - but Who is sowing? Jesus said, “*When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself.*”⁵ “*...the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*”⁶

When we are sowing to the Spirit, we are living the contemplative life. Our attitude is that we are seeing the world, not as something external to ourselves, but as the unfolding of Consciousness that is fulfilling

¹ 1986 Asilomar Retreat, Tape 3 (8636), Side 1

² Galatians 6:8

³ Philipians 4:8

⁴ Wisdom of the Infinite Way

⁵ John 8:28

⁶ John 14:10

Itself. We have the awareness that there is nothing external to our consciousness and that we embody our universe. But we don't always have this point of view – we are not always in that attitude or altitude of consciousness. We are looking out through the eyes and seeing objects of sense instead of ideas of Soul. This is a matter of altitude. Prayer is an attitude, altitude and atmosphere. If we are in the highest spiritual altitude of *I*, we have no feeling of being localized in a body, but instead we are encompassing all that we see in Consciousness. We are a beholder of God in action or Consciousness unfolding. When we are not at that altitude but living instead between two worlds as most of us are much of the time, we are contemplatives, and as contemplatives we sow to the Spirit. We continually remind ourselves, “*greater is He that is in [me], than he that is in the world.*”⁷ “*He performeth the thing that is appointed for me.*”⁸ “*I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight.*”⁹ “*The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me.*”¹⁰

Who is this “He”? It is the Spirit of God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It is this indwelling Spirit, the animating Principle of Life that animates our body, our thinking, and animates and maintains our universe. Then we are connected to this mystical or transcendental way. If there is no personal sense of *I*, then there is no problem maker! We must have a personal sense of *I* to have any kind of problem. When there is no personal sense of *I*, there is no problem and there is no one to have a

⁷ 1 John 4:4

⁸ Job 23:14

⁹ Isaiah 45:2

¹⁰ Psalm 138:8

problem. There can only be a problem attached to a personal sense of *I*. When Jesus said, “*Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world [fleshly sense],*”¹¹ he meant that he had completely died to the personal sense of “Jesus.” He could then say, “*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.*”¹² “*I and my Father are one.*”¹³

This body has no life, truth or intelligence of its own – it can't utter a word without Consciousness. It can't even breathe or think without that Infinite One living it. So Jesus knew that he was absolutely nothing! “*Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.*”¹⁴ In his absolute humility and total self-abnegation, he stood revealed. And so it is with you! In your total self-abnegation, you realize there is no personal *I*, but just one Ego - God. This is not a personal ego that can expand into a spiritual ego – that is wrong thinking. The personal ego must die, and in the death of the personal ego, an expansion occurs that is so spontaneous that you actually feel you are floating unanchored. Why is that? It is because the “anchor” is the state of being earthbound and landlocked. In Switzerland where Joel gave his class, “Prayer – the Upward Dimension; Earthbound – Landlocked,”¹⁵ there were huge mountains surrounding Lausanne with no way to get a view of the horizon. That is how personal sense of *I* is - earthbound and landlocked by human history. In this

¹¹ John 16:33

¹² John 5:30

¹³ John 10:30

¹⁴ Matthew 19:17

¹⁵ #345, Side 2

human history are laws such as karmic law – in a sense, our forefathers ate sour grapes and visited this upon children of all generations. Anything that puts the blame on us makes us earthbound and shackled. Eventually, we start to realize that there is actually no karmic law, no law of “as you sow, so shall you reap.” What God has done is forever and *nothing* can be taken from it or added to it. “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.*”¹⁶ Nothing can ever change this. There are infinite horizons of Consciousness.

And so we are going to claim our birthright as children of God so that we too can *look* out at the universe, see it, and behold that it is very good. There are no laws of matter, karma or inheritance in the man born again of the Spirit. I think the most critical point for every mystical student is “...*call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*”¹⁷ This is so important! And call no woman on earth your mother, because as soon as you have allegiance to a mother or father, you have an anchor that keeps you from rising spontaneously even as light emits light. When you claim your freedom in the name of almighty God, realizing that “*where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty,*”¹⁸ then you rise into transcendental consciousness and mystical awareness where you have no earth shackles of limitation.

We must all take this step. My earthly father was a Scotsman. He belonged to a clan with nine brothers and sisters, and that clan meant everything to him.

¹⁶ Genesis 1:31

¹⁷ Matthew 23:9

¹⁸ 2 Corinthians 3:17

When I was three years old, I was dressed in kilts, taught the Highland fling and barraged with the virtues of this Scottish clan. I denied it in my older years because I knew you couldn't say, “*I and my Father are one*” if he is a human Scotsman! I had to loose those shackles!

The first time I went to Europe, Emma agreed to accompany me to Scotland. When we entered an ancient church on a tour, the guide explained that traditionally in this church, there were no chairs, that each person brought his or her own stool to sit on. During its history, the church had alternated between Catholicism and Presbyterianism. The Scots had experienced a period of freedom from Catholicism and when a Catholic priest arrived at the church to speak, all the Scots threw their stools at him, refusing Papal authority! On the tour, we also learned about the wars, clan fighting, and well-known reputation for stinginess. After I heard all that, I wondered why anyone would want to be landlocked and earthbound by a traditional but limited inheritance!

Whatever your racial background, don't take pride in it – let go of it. Don't hate it, don't love it, and don't fear it. Remember, “...*the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.*”¹⁹ “*Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.*”²⁰ There is only one Father of us all, and the only qualities I can inherit from my Father/Mother God are Life, Truth, Love, Peace, Harmony, and Wholeness. Now who would want to exchange his birthright for a “mess of pottage [humanity]?”²¹ One day you will declare your

¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:26

²⁰ Luke 15:31

²¹ See Genesis 25:33-34

freedom in the name of the Almighty God. You will realize, “I no longer identify with any human history or any human race. I’m neither Jew nor Gentile, neither bond nor free, black nor white – I am I.” What I Am must be revealed, disclosed and must unfold from moment to moment from an infinite, incorruptible, incorporeal basis. That is freedom! Years ago, I pondered Mrs. Eddy’s statement but didn’t know exactly what she meant. On a July 4th family picnic, as I observed everyone, I saw that to material sense they all had problems - they were unfulfilled. To my sense, they were not filled with the Holy Spirit or showing joy. As I looked at them with compassion, I knew that I wanted more from life than just good humanhood. Then this passage from Mrs. Eddy came to me: “Someday mortals will claim their freedom in the name of Almighty God.” Though I still did not fully understand this, I, too, said, “I claim my freedom in the name of Almighty God!”

After that, I went through a long gestation period during which I learned to meditate and to contemplate. I learned that “...*greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*”²² I learned to wait, to surrender to this He, this indwelling Presence and Power – to surrender my sense of life, my hands, my ears, my eyes, my tongue, and my motives to this Infinite Unseen, and Life began to unfold in a new and living Way, an infinite Way.

“Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.”²³

²² 1 John 4:4

²³ “Take my Life and Let it Be,” Frances R. Havertgal, 1874

Dear Friend,

As I read this Lesson, I am reminded of how wonderful it is to live freely and lovingly the Master’s request, “love one another as I have loved you.”²⁴ In his last message, he passed down the gift of eternal life, lived in Love meeting the human need.

Love alone frees us from the attachments of personal sense that are so binding, allowing us to experience the freedom of Christ-consciousness. Living in the pure atmosphere of Soul with no attachments to this world, we see brotherly love prevail, fulfilling My Joy and My Peace.

Aloha,

Virginia

© Virginia Stephenson, 2014

²⁴ John 15:12