



Monthly Lesson
November 2015

“Man Includes His Universe”¹

A question on the desk asks, “Is it true that if one merely believes but is unable to demonstrate what he believes, he will progress eons spiritually when he passes on?” Joel said if one accepts the spiritual principle of his or her oneness with God but is not fully able to demonstrate this spiritual oneness or completeness, when the transition comes, the mesmerism of this world drops away, and what that person believed, longed for, and accepted wholeheartedly is experienced.

The question continues: “Joel on his tape said that without spiritual understanding, realization, demonstration and healing, this mortal parenthesis will not be removed or erased. When one awakens on the other side of the veil, he is as mortal and material as before. The appearance of death does not in and of itself advance one into spirituality.” It may be that if one has not demonstrated any of the principles, for instance, never been able to experience the realization that God is the only power, and see a healing take place, that one will still have a material sense of body and may have to come back into the parenthesis until he or she has attained a realization of the spiritual sense of body. I

think what brings us back to a material sense of existence is that we don't understand the spiritual sense of body. We accept Soul as being spiritual but we can't fathom the spiritual sense of Body that is the living Christ Soul. All of us must at sometime along the way accept a spiritual sense of body. We may not be able to demonstrate it completely, but if we can demonstrate our Oneness in some measure, we will not come back into a material sense of body because we will have opened our consciousness to the spiritual sense of Body.

Another question asks, “When a person's body ‘dies,’ is it because the cells of that physical body are unable to respond to the Spirit or Soul which animates it?” Yes, and the reason it can't respond is that there is no transformation occurring on the mental level. Paul says, “...*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”² What is “transformed”? It is our human experience, body and relationships. We are transformed day by day through the renewing of the mind.

Many of you have experienced rereading a book that you have put aside for a few years and it seems new again. And when you sit down to meditate, you end up going back to basics. Why is that? Because material sense, the activity of this belief in two powers, is so hypnotic that it is similar to the pull of gravity. We are always gravitating earthward, but through contemplation, meditation, and the renewing of the mind day by day, we lift up and out of material sense. During the night, if we haven't opened ourselves to

² Romans 12:2

¹ 1983 Asilomar Retreat, Tape 6, (8352), Side 1

being taught of the Spirit, the next morning we experience that “gravitational” pull and we start all over again – the feeling we have is that we must go back to basics and through the renewing of the mind this transformation takes place. We are no longer earthbound or landlocked – we rise in consciousness from the material sense into expansive awareness of the true sense of our Being. Now we realize that we include our universe in consciousness. Daily we must realize that “I am not in the body.” The body is in this divine Consciousness that I am. Because of God’s grace, ‘*All things that the Father hath are mine,*’³ therefore this form or avenue of awareness that is God’s temple is being renewed day by day. In this renewal, *All already Is.*

And so we break out of the earthbound atmosphere. Many people write to me after a class, saying that for days or weeks they were walking on air, and mentally free! They are unable to sustain this altitude because many have young children or pressing jobs. Just as there is an earthly or material sense of body, there is a spiritual sense of body. I’d like to read an excerpt from The Symphony of Life by Dr. Donald Andrews, a physical chemist.

“Several years ago at Yale University Medical School, experiments were made as to the nature and scope of the electric field around living organisms. A tadpole was chosen because it goes through an amazing experience called a metamorphosis during which it turns into a frog. When a most sensitive electric instrument was used to explore the waters surrounding the tadpole, the electric field revealed that

the design or structure of the frog was already in existence while the body of the creature was still only a tadpole. This is by no means a casual experiment for it reveals an invisible and in a sense, an immaterial designing power, a force beyond matter yet connected with matter, capable of determining the form and the action. It reveals that in the nucleus of a frog’s egg is stored the psychic potential of form, structure and growth, fully mature in the arc sense. The great Swiss naturalist, Louis Agassiz, back in the 1800’s, in examining the ovum of an eagle’s egg, saw the sun, the moon and the stars.”

This reveals that the arc pattern is already there. The eagle brings his environment with him; it is not external to him. If you could find a corresponding link with the eagle, you would also find that the sun, moon, and stars are impressed in the arc pattern of man. Man includes his universe; the universe does not include man. The material sense always converts the truth into a lie. When we realize that we are Consciousness and we include our universe, we are able to affect change in others who come into our atmosphere. We are not just a material form but in reality, we have an arc form or divine prototype, spiritual man, called the Christ. We live and move and have our being in It – this is where we operate when we rise above personal sense.

Andrews goes on to say, “The greatest of all differences between the guiding life of a frog and a man is that the frog is incapable of ignoring and thus disobeying its arc type, while a man can egotistically and idiotically cease to receive and to fulfill the guidance that God has created within him which modern science is revealing. It is news to know that

³ John 16:15

all immaterial structure has a somewhat similar autonomous field and this autonomous field never dies. It never disappears and is not subject to discord of any name or nature. “

He says this is an “electric” field and that is true about the material structure. But the spiritual structure is a light field that has in it no pairs of opposites. The electric field is the immaterial or psychic field that has in it both the negative and the positive. In a sense, we are worlds within worlds – little do we know our capacities and capabilities! That is why the great wisdom was written on the Temple of Apollo at Delphi: “Oh, man, know thyself.” When we find the kingdom of God within ourselves, we will be amazed – we will have dominion, not by mental power but by obedience to the arc type, thus receiving and fulfilling the guidance that God has already created within us. This is the importance of dying daily to human will and being born anew each day.

Another student asks, “How can one judge others who are living together before they marry? I understood the Infinite Way holds no judgment, no condemnation. Who are we to judge?” This question is based on a misunderstanding. Scripture says, “*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*”⁴ In the Infinite Way, we do not give power for good or evil to the world of effect. What does that mean? We don’t give power or call a form in the world of effect good or evil. This is the spiritual view and in the spiritual Kingdom, there is no marriage. Marriage is a human institution that has no power to bless or curse you. This does not mean we don’t get married,

⁴ John 7:24

but rather we don’t look to marriage as a panacea that will put us in the Kingdom of Heaven. Marriage will not add one iota to our goodness or grace. It is a human institution, a religious law that develops man’s ethical nature. It was instituted, not for a couple, but for their children. It was also instituted to form a stable community. We do not judge people who do not follow religious or traditional laws, but instead realize that they do not understand their role in the community.

“No man is an island.”⁵ When we are attached to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the human community, what affects one part of the tree affects the other part. The spiritual life in all civilizations is built on ethical standards or norms for living together harmoniously under laws. We can trust one another. We know that there is a permanency and faithfulness in our relationships. *Being ethical will not make us spiritual*, but if we have a developed spiritual nature, we cannot help but be ethical and moral. It is impossible for a spiritually developed soul to be unfaithful, unloving or unkind because the basis of spiritual living is love. That means “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind*”⁶ and be directed by the Spirit. When one is directed of the Spirit, we love our neighbors as ourselves. We can’t help it!

Traditional beliefs developed to produce harmony in society so that we do not have chaos. Joel says human consciousness will never evolve into spiritual consciousness; the tares and the wheat grow side by side. Human consciousness will evolve as more

⁵ "Meditation XVII," by the English poet John Donne

⁶ Matthew 22:37

intellectual, astute, cunning – but no matter how highly it evolves, it only becomes spiritual when it dies and yields itself to Divine Consciousness. The tares look just like wheat. Good humanhood looks just as good to the unilluminated vision as the illumined individual. The difference is that good humanhood, like Job, can be quickly rendered to the ash heap because its “goodness” is based on its own sense of right and wrong and personal power.

The individual living by grace and fed by Christ truth is in a protected state and not subject to the beliefs and laws of this world such as sickness and sin. Paul says, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus [they have crucified personal sense and yielded to the Christ], who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh [the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak], God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned [removed] sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh [material sense], but after the Spirit.*”⁷ *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*⁸ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him [we know what it is to put down the fleshly sense], that we may be also glorified together.”*⁹

⁷ Romans 8:1-4

⁸ Romans 8:13-14

⁹ Romans 8:16-17

Dear Friend,

This year has gone very quickly as we come to the close of a wonderful activity, “The Monthly Lesson.” Dear Leslie has edited and mailed out my Lessons each month for 10 years and now has new horizons of Consciousness before her as I have. A new unfoldment is taking place for both of us and I know this is a blessing.

We all have much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. We have been given the grace to understand a spiritual message of Truth and Love that keeps us in harmony and peace. This Practice of the Presence not only benefits us but also all those who are in our consciousness. So we bless the world by keeping our mind stayed on God as the only cause and the only effect. For this practice of the presence of God, we are thankful. What greater love is there than this recognition that God alone is individual being? In this practice, we continually lay down the false sense of friend or foe and acknowledge that God alone is Being. This is loving our neighbor as our Self.

With much love and gratitude,

Virginia

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