

# BIBLE LESSONS

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

Lesson 3: The Christ

## *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 3: The Christ*

### **Part I**

#### ***Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7***

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

<sup>7</sup> *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.*

“In every case, the messenger appearing to man is the advent of the Christ in individual consciousness, and when so understood, freedom from personal sense and personal limitation has been attained.”<sup>1</sup>

#### ***Isaiah 11: 2-5***

<sup>2</sup> *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;*

<sup>3</sup> *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:*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*

“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.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Infinite Way* (DeVorss & Company, Thirty-fourth printing, 2006), p. 36: 4. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “TIW.”

<sup>2</sup> *TIW*, p. 116: 1

“In worshiping Jesus, men lost the Christ. In devotion to Jesus, men failed to apprehend the Christ. In seeking good through Jesus, men failed to find the omnipresent Christ in their own consciousness.”<sup>3</sup>

“Illumined consciousness dispels the personal sense of self with its problems, ills, age, and failures. It reveals the real Self, the *I* that I am, unlimited, unfettered, untroubled, harmonious, and free. This Selfhood is revealed as we retire within ourselves each day and there learn to ‘listen’ and to watch. Likewise, instead of anxious care about the work of the day or the events of the future, we let the Soul, or our divine Spirit, go ahead of us to smooth and prepare the way; we let this divine Influence remain behind us to safeguard every step from the illusions of sense.”<sup>4</sup>

## Part II

### **Isaiah 61: 1-6**

- <sup>1</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*
- <sup>2</sup> *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*
- <sup>3</sup> *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*
- <sup>4</sup> *And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.*
- <sup>5</sup> *And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.*
- <sup>6</sup> *But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.*

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.’ (Luke 4:18, 19).

“The Spirit of the Lord (the consciousness of the presence of the law of God) is within my awareness – within my consciousness – a part of my conscious being.

“He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor (its mission or function is to enlighten or spiritually enrich me).

<sup>3</sup> *TIW, p. 36: 3*

<sup>4</sup> *TIW, p. 37: 3*

“He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted (its mission, likewise, is to replace erroneous beliefs with perfect ideas of Truth and Life; to provide the awareness of Love where a sense of its absence seems to be; to establish in me the conscious awareness of Love's presence).

“To preach deliverance to the captives of sense: to free me from the bondage of sense testimony; to deliver me from the belief that tracks come together or skies sit on mountains or that the desert mirage has substance or reality; to bring spiritual freedom where material bondage of any nature touches individual being.

“Recovering of sight to the blind: giving spiritual vision, spiritual discernment, in place of a limited sense or material concept.

“To set at liberty them that are bruised: (where finite sense has produced impairment, this Christ Consciousness of me is to be the presence and power of healing, regeneration and resurrection).

“To preach the acceptable year of the Lord: to teach me the God Consciousness or to be to me the Comforter.

“Prayer is not what goes from the individual to God – but that which comes from God, the universal, to the individual consciousness. Prayer is the Word of God which comes to you in Silence.”<sup>5</sup>

### Part III

#### **John 1: 1-5, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

<sup>2</sup> *The same was in the beginning with God.*

<sup>3</sup> *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

<sup>4</sup> *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

<sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

<sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

<sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

<sup>13</sup> *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

<sup>5</sup>*Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture* (DeVorss & Company, Twenty-fourth printing, 2003), p. 122: 1 – p. 123: 4. Please note that all subsequent references to this book will be abbreviated as “SIOS.”

“For many centuries, attention has been centered on Jesus Christ as the Saviour of man, and during these centuries the spiritual sense of life has fluctuated from one extreme to another of light and darkness. A sixteenth century teacher has written: ‘Christ (Jesus) calls Himself the Light of the world, but He also tells His disciples that *they* too are the Light of the world. All Christians in whom the Holy Ghost lives – that is, all real Christians – are one with Christ in God and are like Christ (Jesus). They will therefore have similar experiences, and what Christ (Jesus) did, they will do also.’”<sup>6</sup>

**Matthew 16: 13-17**

- <sup>13</sup> *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*
- <sup>14</sup> *And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*
- <sup>15</sup> *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*
- <sup>16</sup> *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*
- <sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

“When we are confronted with any person or circumstance that appears to be mortal, we must realize, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ and that all that appears as mortality is illusion or nothingness. We will fear no mortal and no material circumstance because we recognize its nothingness.”<sup>7</sup>

**Matthew 5: 14-16**

- <sup>14</sup> *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*
- <sup>15</sup> *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*
- <sup>16</sup> *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

“Our task is the realization of the Christ of our own consciousness. We acknowledge with joy and deep love the measure of the Christ attained not only by Jesus, but by many spiritual seers and prophets of all ages. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the measure of the Christ manifested by so many men and women of today. We now look forward to the realization of the Christ of our own consciousness. ‘The kingdom of God

<sup>6</sup> *TIW, p. 55: 1*

<sup>7</sup> *TIW, p. 57: 1*

is in you and he who searches for it outside himself will never find it, for apart from God no one can either seek or find God, for he who seeks God, already in truth has Him.”<sup>8</sup>

“We must understand the word ‘consciousness’ because we can only prove what we are conscious of. Where do we stand in consciousness? Are we still mortals? Or have we renounced our material selfhood and acknowledged ourselves to be the Christ, the fulfillment, the presence of God? Some day we must give up the effort to get and acknowledge ourselves to be the eternal Giver in action. We must feed five thousand without taking thought as to whence it shall come. Out of our Christhood, the multitudes can be supplied. Wherein then is lack except in the belief that we are humans? We must give up this belief and claim our true identity.”<sup>9</sup>

## Part IV

### **John 8: 31-32**

<sup>31</sup> *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

<sup>32</sup> *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

“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.”<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *TIW, p. 55: 2*

<sup>9</sup> *TIW, p. 56: 1*

<sup>10</sup> *TIW, p. 115: 3*



**John 12: 44-50**

<sup>44</sup> *Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.*

<sup>45</sup> *And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*

<sup>46</sup> *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

<sup>47</sup> *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*

<sup>48</sup> *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

<sup>49</sup> *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

<sup>50</sup> *And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

“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.”<sup>11</sup>

“Do not be misled, here is the secret: Fill your consciousness with the word of God; hear It; read It; ponder It; meditate upon It. This enriches and ripens consciousness, and this deeper, purer consciousness now becomes the cause, law, substance, and activity of your existence. This nobler consciousness which has evolved through study, practice, and meditation attains the conscious communion with God, and reaches through to the deep silence of *My peace*. Then you are lifted into a realm of atmosphere transcending words and thoughts.”<sup>12</sup>

“The mere reading of truth is but an acquisition of knowledge, not a deepening and enriching of consciousness. *It is the deepened and enriched consciousness which is the Christ unto your experience.*”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> *TIW, p. 117: 1*

<sup>12</sup> *TIW, p. 159: 1*

<sup>13</sup> *TIW, p. 159: 2*

*Notes: The Christ*