



According to the first chapter of Acts, after the crucifixion, Jesus lived on Earth in the resurrection for forty days. What is the significance of this? It shows us, that by letting the Christ, the indwelling presence of God within us live our lives, we can experience the ultimate freedom in this world. Jesus had his physical body to function through, yet it was his Christ consciousness that was living it. Just before his crucifixion, he told his disciples, according to the Book of John, to be in the world yet not of the world. This idea altered the way people looked at life, and it opened the door to the type of healing Jesus performed and that Joel practiced thousands of years later. It revealed the existence of a spiritual dimension of life functioning in the here and now where the physical world appears. This revelation is a radical departure from the concept of a God separate and apart from His creation who if properly petitioned may or may not exercise His power over human affairs.

During his time in the resurrection Jesus appeared to many of his disciples. He demonstrated the dominion of spiritual consciousness over material cause and effect. Living in the resurrection then, becomes part of our spiritual practice of living between two worlds. You might wonder if this requires a crucifixion? I'd say everyone on the spiritual path has been crucified one way or another. And I don't look at this metaphorically. Many of us have suffered up to the point of being at death's door. Ever since the advancement of modern medicine, countless religious people began to look at the resurrection as a metaphor. The idea that Jesus actually came back to life lost its sense of reality. How could a man come back from the dead? It must have been his spiritual essence, his soul that the disciples saw. But if this is what we believe, how can we explain a tumor that dissolves after spiritual work, or the bones that knit, or the lungs that regain their capacity to function normally?

The harmony, peace, freedom and abundance we experience in our lives is directly proportional to our spiritual insight. Spiritual awareness unfolds in our experience according to our desire to know the truth. That desire might not be entirely conscious. It might be the desire to set people free, as it was with Moses. It might be the desire to alleviate human suffering. Whatever the impulse, it follows a pattern, and that pattern is described in the Bible by using time symbolically. Moses spent forty years in the wilderness before the Israelites could enter the promise land. Why? It takes a generation to nullify the beliefs in and concepts about material cause and effect. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness after confronting the devil. He was

offered the world, and all the power, riches and pleasures in it if he would worship him – the devil being the personification of the power of material cause and effect. After Jesus rejected that offer, he needed time away from the stimulus of good versus evil. He needed time to experience the fullness of the now moment. The forty days in the resurrection shows those with the eyes to see that the kingdom of heaven, the consciousness of peace and freedom is right here and now, not in some future realm off in the sky. Jesus changed the perception of life from one based on the five physical senses to one based on spiritual reality.

Jesus was the most notable mystic the world has known. There were others before him – Moses, Gautama, Elijah, Isaiah, and others since – Shankara, Mrs. Eddy and the New Thought teachers, including Joel. All mystics, whether they claim that description or not, understand the idea of oneness. “Here, O Israel, the Lord our God is One.” “Thou seest me, and thou seest the Father that sent me.” “I and my Father are one.” And I’m sure there are many more statements of oneness from other mystical traditions. What we all have in common is the understanding that oneness is the foundation from which we can live in the world yet not be *of* it. The prepositions are important here. We are not *of* this world. The appearance-nature of this world does not constitute any part of our being. We are the divine One expressing Itself. There is no separation from nor space between the creator and creation. Joel Goldsmith gave us the principle that God is the substance of all form. That is not metaphorical. It refers to spiritual existence as a tangible reality. Creation is built on the unseen. We don’t see the atoms and the molecules that are the substance of the elements that make up physical reality. Is the Infinite Invisible less real? Going beyond the physics of this world, beyond the quantum, there is a consciousness, a universal intelligence in which all exists. What we know of this consciousness is that it is omnipresent; that it is without opposite, therefore omnipotent, and that it is harmonious. Its atmosphere is love. So, when we ask ourselves who are we, this ought to be the nature of our contemplation.

This perspective is developed during our resurrection. Yes, we have all had moments of resurrection. Perhaps it was an illness that broke after a moment of surrender. It could have been an event; an automobile accident that was about to happen but didn’t, a business deal that was dead but when released in consciousness came together to bless many. It is those moments of illumination that reveal the illusory nature physical sense. To our conditioned mind, there is no doubt to the reality of material cause and effect. You bump your head, and it hurts. Spiritually there is another activity at work. It is your conscious awareness of the harmonious nature of creation. If that consciousness has been cultivated, it is active before your conditioned mind enters a reactionary state and the negative physical effects are mitigated or dissolved all together. Spiritual law conforms physical and mental activity to Its perfect manifestation. The nature of God, Spirit, is harmony. It is peace. It is joy and abundance – all that was made is good. So, the body that was in the tomb emerges whole. The consciousness that animates that body is eternal. And the person who experiences that body feels the peace and the incorporeal nature of life.

The nature of spiritual healing is in the realization of oneness. It has nothing to do with this world. It has nothing to do with physical sense or with mental activity. Jesus never dealt with a problem; he dismissed the problem and recognized the reality behind the appearance. Joel has said that the only healing treatment worth knowing is knowing the truth about God. So, who is God? The answer must be I am. This is the key to healing. As Joel writes in the chapter Metaphysical Healing in his book *The Infinite Way*, “God is the Mind, the Life of the individual. Any mental hedging or inner reservation on this subject will result in ultimate failure. There is one universal I whether it is being spoken by Jesus Christ or John Smith. When Jesus revealed: ‘He that seeth me seeth him that sent me,’ he was revealing a universal Truth or Principle. There must be no quibbling about this. You either understand this truth or you do not – and if you do not there is no need for you to seek any further reason for failure to heal.”

There is no God in this world. When a change to your experience takes place through the activity of spiritual work, nothing in “this world” has changed. The only thing that has changed is your perception of the world. It might appear that something has changed out there, but what has happened is that you have realized a deeper sense of the One and have nullified the cycle of material cause and effect in that moment. The nature of spiritual healing is in the realization of the presence of the Divine One in the now. You just need to rest in that.

So, who am I? I am that I am. I am the word made flesh. I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

This is a poem Sandra taught her daughter when she was a child. It was passed on to her by a dear English friend, May Shaw, a spiritual practitioner who knew Joel very well.

Child of the Infinite One  
Born for Eternal Day  
Made in the image of Love  
To traverse the Heavenly Way  
As a fountain that never fails  
Thy Spirit and Life are free  
And all that belongs to God  
Rightly belongs to Thee