A Reading for the Christmas Season 2015 An Excerpt from *The Infinite Way Letters, December 1955* By Joel S. Goldsmith

A CHRISTMAS message should be a message of peace. Our thoughts turn from the peace the world is seeking to the true peace—"My peace" which, when men are ready to receive it, comes with healing of mind and body. The world seeks a peace that can never be found while its sense of peace is but an absence or cessation of war. ... True peace is achieved only as we lay down the armor of flesh; as we put up

the sword of defense from the fears and hatreds of the world; as we cease warring with the conditions of earth. Lasting peace reigns only when man's relationship to man is based upon his relationship to God. Peace is realized as we find union with our fellow men through the experience of God. ... The world is seeking peace "out there" but peace is to be found in entertaining the Prince of Peace within our own individual being. Let us, therefore, no longer seek the peace the world is seeking but, rather, "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." ...

Oftentimes the admonitions and promises of the Old Testament prophets are misinterpreted as pertaining to some particular man or to a specific race or nation. ... Such misapprehensions have led to the worship of certain so-called saviors as if they themselves were the Christ, and this, in turn, to denominational religions with their limiting differences and enmities. God has not anointed a certain man or a special people: God has anointed His Beloved Son, the Christ. The Christ is a spiritual entity, a spiritual impulse—a Spirit that is in man, and He it is that is blessed, anointed, upheld by the Father. Occasionally this Divine Spiritual Impulse, the Christ, appears as more pronounced in an individual here and there, but It exists in the consciousness of every individual on the face of the globe. There comes a specific period in the life of each individual when he comes to the place of spiritual annunciation in which the Christ is conceived, nurtured, developed, until, on a Christmas Day, the Child is born, or in other words, the Presence of the Christ is realized. The birth of the Christ does not chronologically occur on the twenty-fifth of December, nor geographically in the Holy Lands, but rather, it takes place in the uplifted consciousness of the individual. It is this uplifted consciousness that is the Holy City—the birthplace and dwelling place of the Christ. Wherever this Spirit of God appears in human consciousness, all the blessings and prophecies regarding the rich fruitage of the Christ are made evident. ...

It is only after the Christ has been realized in consciousness that the depth of true humility is understood. Before that time there is always a sense of personal ego, but with the birth of the Christ, all sense of personal demonstration or the desire for any person or thing, accomplishment or achievement, is lost. One comes to a point of transition in consciousness from that place where there exists a need, a desire, or an unfulfilled life, to that place where there is no life of one's own to be fulfilled, made happy, prosperous or content. There no longer exists even a sense of needing God because there is a realization of *God acting through one*. This activity is never for one's personal benefit, but is a blessing unto those who have not yet experienced the conception and birth of the Christ within their own being and thereby realized the universal nature of the Christ. ...

A cry is going up from people the world over for a cessation of war and a world peace, and the earth has no answer for them. *But there is an answer!* The answer is Christ—Christ, a spiritual influence within you, within me, and within all whose hearts and Souls are open to the annunciation, to the experience of conception and birth of the Christ. The Spirit of the Lord God Almighty is upon the Christ of your individual being, and this gentle Presence, achieved "not by might nor by power," is the anointing of the Spirit Itself. It is this Christ that is the answer to world peace …

The ultimate mission of the Christ is the healing of the world; therefore it becomes necessary for those who have felt the touch of the Christ to make way for Its activity to permeate human consciousness. Prayer is the avenue or activity of our consciousness which brings the Presence and Power of God into human affairs. ...

Just think of the healing consciousness that can be brought to the world as each Infinite Way student realizes, first of all, that "the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father" is the Christ of his individual being! All that the Father hath is bestowed upon this vital, living, eternal, immortal Child, and Its abiding place is within you, in your consciousness! ... The gentle activity of the Christ in the midst of you is sufficient to the tearing down of the four temporal kingdoms. But one thing is required—Christ must have Its Jesus! The spiritual Child must have Its representation on earth, and It must be released to the world through the consciousness of those individuals who have come to realize Christ in the midst of them. ...

It is your function, daily and without fail, to go within for the purpose of receiving the Prince of Peace, thereby permitting entrance of the Christ into human affairs. It is not necessary to direct or enlighten It in any way, but just to wait—silently, without effort, without power—and let It occupy consciousness! Can you not see what will happen when the Christ, really realized, begins to touch the consciousness of all the peoples of earth, removing from them the causes and effects of human error? The Christ touching your consciousness and freeing you from the hates and fears of the world will bless countless others. Prayer, from this standpoint, is an opening of yourself to the visitation and communion with the Prince of Peace, and makes of your consciousness the Holy City where dwells the Christ, and through which the Christ finds entrance into human consciousness. ...

We enter meditation for the sole purpose of communion with the Holy One of Israel, so that the Christ may find outlet through us, thus tearing down the mighty strongholds of human belief and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. There is no personal work to be done in this communion— we have only to be still, and let it flow out. ... Never are you and I about the Father's business—only the Christ performs the functions of God on earth, establishing His reign in the hearts of all who are receptive and responsive to Its healing Presence.

"The place where thou standest is holy ground"—Jerusalem, the Holy City, whenever you entertain the Prince of Peace; whenever the Christ fills your consciousness and thereby finds outlet to all the world. And so, on Christmas Day, we bid Godspeed to the Prince of Peace on Its Journey of Love into human consciousness, so that each individual whose thought and mind, Spirit and Soul, are open to the conception and birth of the Christ may know this gentle Presence, which is capable of bringing peace on earth, good will towards men.