

Goldsmith Global Online Tape Group – March 19 and 26, 2016
1953 First Portland Class, given by Joel S. Goldsmith
Tape 38, Side 1: “Temple Meditation”

(This class was not used in any chapter in Leave Your Nets.)

Summary

The personal sense of self must “die daily” so that we can be reborn of the Spirit. This little “I,” known as “I, Joel” or “I, Mary,” is trying to live a life of its own. Yet there is an *I* that would live our lives for us joyously, successfully, and abundantly, if only we could give up “I, Joel” and let “*I, God,*” the Christ of us, the real Being, take over. We know it can be done. Great religious teachers have given up their personal sense of life so that the *I*, their real Being, could live its life for them. Jesus said, *“I can of my own self do nothing. The Father within me doeth the works.”* Paul said, *“I can do all things through Christ.”* This *I* at the center of our Being, which is God, or the Christ, says to Joel: *“I am come that ye, Joel, might be fulfilled. So ye, Joel, take no thought for your life.”*

A branch of itself cannot bring forth fruit, and yet “ye are the branches” and you are trying to live your own lives. In and of yourselves, you can’t live at all! You only live because you are one with the vine, so you can live harmoniously only if you relax and let the vine pour through to you the essence, substance, and life that becomes the flower and the fruit on the branch. We can begin to die daily and give up the personal sense of responsibility by thinking of the vine that is feeding us, instead of believing that “I” must take thought or be anxious for myself. You might say, “I have no anxiety for myself. I’m thinking of my family.” Yes, you are thinking of the other branches on the tree, forgetting that they too, are one with the same vine. Is your family dependent on you or on their connection to the vine? Even if your family is not interested in truth, the Christ does not care. Scripture says, *“His rain falls on the just and the unjust.”* The Father knows the needs of your family and it is His good pleasure to give them the kingdom.

“I am come that ye may have life and have it more abundantly.” To live that abundant life, we must know that as the branch, we are always one with the invisible vine that is drawing from the infinite Source of the Father. In this awareness, you can relax and **let** the Father reveal Himself and His plan for you. God is infinite, and that infinity can manifest through one as a minister, a physician, a lawyer, or something else, but it is not of your choosing. You play the part assigned to you, whatever it may be. You have no right to interfere with the divine plan, so you begin wherever you are and agree that it is all right: *“The place where I am is holy ground.”* Do not try to move yourself from that place. Just begin to let God take over, and let God move you.

Now, if you relax from the word “I,” and use instead “the Christ” or “the Father,” realizing that the Father is working out His plan and that you are here only to show forth the glory of the Father; and if you let It begin Its work in you, you will discover that there is nothing limited about your life – except when the word “I” comes in. Today I received a letter saying, “I would so love to be in this work.” That person is trying to interfere with the divine plan by choosing their own place and letting the little “I” determine where the Christ should function, instead of saying, “I am satisfied where I am, and at each moment, I will let the Christ move me.”

There is no way to bring forth an infinite or more abundant sense of life except through the realization of our Self-completeness **in God** – not self-completeness in Joel. The completeness of God is manifest as the harmony and abundance of Joel, but it is not Joel’s abundance, or Joel’s success. It is the wisdom, activity, and divine grace of the Father, expressing through Joel as Joel is willing. Now when I say “Joel,” I mean all the names in this room or in the world.

The sense of separation from God, evidenced by the use of the word "I," constitutes all the error in our experience. Health, harmony, abundance, contentment, peace, manifest only in proportion as we relax and let the activity of the Christ manifest Itself. This is not as simple as it sounds because we have built up this personal sense of "I" over thousands of years. Egotism comes in and says, "What? Be dependent on God? Always turn to God for direction? I think I'll live my own life!" But that only works for a while, since the only Reality is in the completeness that comes to us through God in the realization of the spiritual nature of our Being.

It is not difficult to be a "go-getter." It is much more difficult to sit back and **let** the divine activity be brought to our door. It may seem that can never happen to us, but it can – if you realize that the Christ is the real mind, soul, wisdom, and love of your Being. Then everything and everybody will gravitate to that Christ. But if you believe that you have wisdom, spirituality, and goodness **of yourself**, you will find yourself alone. If you catch this vision of the vine and are still while God pours Its infinite good through the vine to the branch, fruitage will appear with no effort. You stand still in Being, and suddenly buds and blossoms break out and fruitage follows. But in standing still, you will be active about the work given you to do.

Whatever we have to do today, we do to the best of our ability with no concern for tomorrow. We realize that even while I do this work, the Father is pouring Its bounty into me as the branch through the invisible Christ of my being. Tomorrow something else is given us to do, and we do that to the best of our ability. Step by step, we are led out of our present work into a wider ministry. There are infinitely many facets to the activity of the Christ. They are all equally of God, and not all are connected with the healing work or spiritual teaching. No one activity is more spiritual than another. The architect or builder produces his ideas through the realization of divine ideas received within, as does the musician, the poet, the practitioner, and the teacher. It is all the same activity of the Christ, appearing in infinite form and variety.

The word "I" would lead us into being something of ourselves, instead of saying "Thank you, Father. All that God is, I am, and all that the Father hath is mine. Let me be still." Then the flow comes and activity is brought to our door. That activity is always abundant and successful because the same Christ that brings the activity performs it. *"He performeth that which is given me to do."* When **we** search for something to do, often we fail because we are trying to do work that **we** determine to do, and there is no **He** to perform it. How do we know when He has given it to me? When I do not have to go out and search for it; when it comes to me.

Read the entire 15th Chapter of John and gain the vision of the branch and its connection to the tree. Then remember that in your concern for your family, neighbor, and the world at large, you are taking on a responsibility that does not belong to you. Why? Every branch is connected with the same vine, and there is only one Godhead. One branch does not have to assume responsibility for another branch. Cooperate and share? Yes. But even then, remember that if you share your good with someone, it is not of you; it is of the Father. Let me illustrate.

Judging by appearances, it seems that the Father is pouring this truth into me, and I am sharing it with you. That's the appearance, but not the truth. This truth is from the Godhead, and it is flowing through the invisible vine, the Christ, into your consciousness and mine. I am receiving it at the same time you are receiving it, and from the same Source. So this is nothing of "mine" that I am giving to you. God, through the Christ, is imparting this truth to all of us. No one is receiving it **from** another. There is only one mind, one Consciousness, one Soul in this room, and this activity of truth is taking place in that one mind. If we all sat here in silence, this truth would still reach your consciousness. It is God's plan that this truth be voiced, and there is no power that can prevent its appearance in your consciousness.

The activity of God cannot be impeded. Emerson said, "There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come," and it's true. The time has come for this revelation of the infinite nature of individual being, our Self-completeness in God. The time is here when every individual must know that they draw on the Christ for their good, not on each other. Because the time has come and human consciousness is ready to receive it, this message will reach human consciousness. If Joel left the scene, the message would march on in these books or this teaching, or through some other "Joel." There is no way to stop the activity of the Christ, and there is no way to prevent an individual who is ready for the truth from receiving it. God would wipe aside every obstruction. I am here to voice it to you now, but if I weren't, it would reach you in another way.

God is the creative Principle of your Being, your very wisdom, strength, health, wholeness, and immortality. Nothing can prevent that abundance appearing in you. When you are ready for it, you could no more prevent that fruitage than the unborn child can prevent being born when its time has come. But there is no responsibility on your shoulders. You need not be concerned as to whether you are doing what is necessary to bring this into expression, because you have nothing to do with it. "*The government is on Its shoulder.*" Let It have Its way with you. There is an *I* that has come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly, so you can sit back and hear: "*I will never leave you nor forsake you. If you go through the waters, you will not drown. If you go through the fire, the flames will not kindle upon you, for I Am with thee.*" The responsibility is on the *I*. Don't worry about whether you are studying or meditating enough, because It will see to it that you do all the meditating and studying necessary.

So please give up personal responsibility and all sense of personal condemnation or criticism. Any criticism, judgment, or condemnation of your neighbor **or yourself** is bearing witness to a lie. Listen to the *I* that is the Christ of your Being, and be led of that Spirit. Then one of these days, you will witness your good coming from the hand of God within, not from any man without. It may **seem** that your good is coming to you from without, but that is only an outer picture. Right now this truth for which you are prepared is coming to you not from me, but from the depths of your Being saying, "Don't you see? This is the truth, the feast, the bread, the wine, the water, prepared for you from the beginning of time. Take and eat."

As you look at the world, you will behold what appears as distress, but this is an appearance that is the natural result of years of selfish living and warring. It takes a toll on those who "live by the sword," for "*As ye sow, so shall ye reap.*" In the human picture, this is inevitable. If you depended on your physical strength alone and lifted a weight that was too heavy, there would be physical consequences. But if you realized the Godhead as your strength and had to lift the same weight, you could do it without harm. You would be doing it through your Christhood, not physical effort. You would be reaping spiritual strength because you had sown spiritual truth.

Likewise, if you lose your sense of fear about supply, understand God as the Source of your supply, and realize that the Christ is forever pouring it forth to you, supply flows naturally. You are reaping your spiritual bread, meat, wine and water. But when the man who believes that money or labor is his supply finds that he has no money and no labor, there is lack and limitation. He is reaping the material sense of supply that he has sown. In the same way, the man who accepts the belief that he can benefit at your expense sooner or later has someone benefit at his expense. He reaps what he has sown.

There are two ways to help the world when it begins to reap badly. If we have storehouses, we can help, but usually no one person or nation has enough to meet the need. We have a better remedy that can help in a way that meets the immediate need *and* eventually brings about a condition in which there is no more need. We think of the tree and remember that those who

seem to be in need are branches, at one with the spiritual vine in spite of appearances. They lack only because they are not yet consciously aware that there is an invisible Source upon which they can draw. Your realization of that truth for them establishes them in that awareness.

One of our students was riding the bus home after class and noticed an intoxicated man. She promptly and properly realized Christ as the true nature of all being. It wasn't long before the man turned around – perfectly sober – and said, "Thanks, lady, for praying for me." Another student had a similar experience. There is an invisible thread binding all of us together, and that thread is Christ. We are all branches attached to one tree. Only one thing is necessary for our demonstration – realizing that I of my own self can do nothing and can be nothing. There is but one good, the Father, pouring that goodness through the Christ out into expression as my goodness. But if you claim that for yourself and not for your brother, your prayer is of no avail.

So if you are going through any discord and you are praying, but you are also entertaining a belief that your brother is in lack, limitation, or separation from good, stop praying and establish your peace in the realization that all men are one in Christ; that we are all branches on the Tree of Life, fed from the same Source. As you realize that, you have set your brother free, and in setting your brother free, you set yourself free. If you are not at peace with your brother, or do not see him as maintained, and sustained by the same Source, you cannot have freedom. We are **joint** heirs with Christ in God; all one in Christ. Christ is every man's freedom and supply. Christ is the life, Soul, Being, essence, and substance of every individual. Appearances have nothing to do with it; we are judging righteous judgment. We are seeing with eyes that are the windows of the Soul, and when we see with our Soul, we see that we are brothers and sisters, one in Christ. We see that what affects one limb affects the whole body, and so we are as careful about meeting the needs of our fellow man as we are about meeting our own needs. We are Self-complete in our Godhood, and that is the truth that we realize for our brother.

So as we witness these appearances of discord, we must stop seeing them from the human standpoint and behold the picture in Christ – that we are all one with the vine, fed, maintained, sustained, and protected. Then we come to a place of Self-completeness in which I do not concern myself for Joel or try to change the outer picture. I retire into meditation, realizing that in my conscious oneness with God, I am one with all being. Then I am led to those I can serve, and those who can serve me are led to me – by the activity of the Christ, not human planning.

When we are tempted to take thought for some outer condition, as fast as possible, sit down and realize that the answer lies within you – in the Christ of your Being, not in your thinking. This applies to the major as well as the minor experiences of daily life. Even if you were called upon to build a tunnel through a mountain, the answer lies within your own being. If you turned to the Christ of your Being, a way to tunnel through the mountain would be revealed to you. If you are called upon for something exceeding your present financial ability to meet it, instead of thinking, hoping, or despairing, get quiet and know: "The answer already lies within my being."

We are now living in our Self-completeness in God, and we do not look externally to find the answers to our problems. We go within. Every detail of your life is already complete and established deep in your consciousness. You can turn there for the answer to **any** problem, for the kingdom of Allness is within you. So go within first. You will be led and directed, but only if you start from the basis of our new life – Self-completeness in God. Believe in your Self-completeness in God. Believe that you can turn within to the kingdom of God for any answer or for anything necessary in your experience. Believe that you can turn within, make that contact, and receive the assurance of God's presence. Then watch your good appear in the without.