

Goldsmith Global Online Tape Group – April 16 and 23, 2016
1953 First Portland Class, given by Joel S. Goldsmith
Tape 39, Side 1: “Grace”

(This class is the basis for Chapter 7, “Grace,” in Leave Your Nets.)

Summary

The word is “grace.” *“Thy grace is my sufficiency.”* The word “grace” includes all that is meant by the word “gift,” so the “gift” of God is my sufficiency. The word “grace” reveals a state of consciousness in us that has accepted the teaching given in Luke 12: 22-32, and in Matthew:

“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap ... and God feedeth them. How much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet ... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ... Seek not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink ... Your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. ... It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Grace is revealed in that passage. *“My kingdom is not of this world,”* but the nations of the world seek after the things of this world and take thought about the affairs of tomorrow. In the kingdom of grace, you accept that God is infinite power and good, creative Principle, that which maintains and sustains. Above all, God is love, so love is the measure and the capacity of our good.

Prayer as taught in churches is a sin, because it asks for all forms of good. But isn’t that a sin against God? What if your child prayed to you for meals, clothing, and toys? You would explain, “We are your parents. You are here so that we may care for you, protect you, educate you, and help you understand the true nature of divine protection and supply. You need not remind us of your needs. We know your needs, and it is our privilege and delight to meet them. So have confidence that every day we will provide everything necessary for your development.”

The prayer that begs for the things of this world is a sin. The prayer that says, “Open my eyes; illumine me; fit me to be a better instrument of Thy will” is closer to the highest prayer known, which is communion with God. In true prayer, one feels oneself in God and feels God in oneself. It comes after we have attained a measure of life by grace, when we understand that tomorrow is God’s concern, not mine; when we understand that whatever is given me to do, I must do to the best of my present understanding. Since God has given me mail to answer, I must answer it promptly, in accord with my highest understanding. Then God places the next responsibility, and I must do that. It makes no difference whether it is shopping, selling, healing, or teaching. God has given that task. We do it to the best of our ability, and then wait for the next one. If we doubt that it will be given; or that it will come with everything needed to carry it out; or that it will bring joy, success and fruition; we have not understood the word “grace.”

Grace is fulfillment. Grace does not bring partial success or partial happiness. It does not demand of us anything we cannot fulfill. When grace brings a task to us, it also brings the understanding, strength, and wisdom to perform it, as well as whatever is necessary for fulfillment. Now, it isn’t that God knows material needs and supplies them. No. Remember when Joan of Arc was asked, “Does God speak to you in French,” she replied, “I **understand** him in French.” In other words, God knows nothing of our material need. God speaks in terms

of fulfillment, and we understand Him in terms of dollar bills, classes, books, employment, or companionship. God speaks as Spirit, and we interpret it as whatever makes for our fulfillment.

When we understand God to be the giver of all good, we do not look to each other for anything – even those things that constitute our human and legal rights. We do not look to each other for love, companionship, or supply. Within the depths of our being, we look to God for it. Since God is love, we expect care, protection, safety, peace, joy, and fulfillment from God, not from man. If you were to go into court, do not expect justice of the judge or jury. If you do, and you don't get it, blame yourself, not those who denied it to you. You expected justice from the wrong place. God is justice, and we must look to God for it. God is truth, and we must look to God – not to witnesses – for truth. Then the witnesses will speak the word of truth, and the judge and jury will render justice – but only as we expect it of God. That is grace.

This is like the experience of the man who had an ugly corner lot and transformed it into a beautiful garden. One day a minister came by and said, "What a beautiful garden God has grown here!" The man replied, "You should have seen it when God had it all to Himself." Now, man could be the vehicle, but a man couldn't grow a garden by himself. It takes God to do it, but man is the instrument through which it is done. So it is with us. When you call a practitioner for help, you expect healing. But you would be shocked if the practitioner took personal credit for it, because you know that the practitioner is just an instrument for God's grace. In fact, if that practitioner weren't there, and you were seeking your good through God, another practitioner would be provided. If there were none left on earth, your good would come to you directly from within your own being. If you look to God, to divine grace, for your good, God will raise up an instrument for you if one is needed. So **grace is a continuous realization of God as the Source**. In The Infinite Way, we do not look to man. We look only to God, and then lovingly accept the good **through** those individuals chosen for the purpose.

God has mysterious ways of bringing our good to us. Once a man came to see us on a business matter and noticed the Bible and the recordings in the room. He asked about the work, and I said, "It's a teaching; sort of a way of life." He asked, "Why haven't I heard of you being here?" I replied, "We don't advertise." He said, "I've been seeking a way of life, but I didn't know where to look, and here you are with a way that may be the answer. How do people know you're here?" I said, "When the need is there, they find us." He asked, "Well, how could I find you?" I said, "You have!" He was seeking a way of life, but in seeking without thinking of a specific avenue, he was led to one that may be right for him. Even if it isn't, he is on the path and ultimately will find the way that meets his need. But he didn't have to pray for anything. All he had to do was lift himself into the desire for a way. As long as we are not seeking human avenues but realize, "My heavenly Father feeds, clothes, maintains, and sustains me spiritually," that realization of divine grace will interpret itself on our level of understanding. If it must come in French or English, it will. If it must come as The Infinite Way to a man seeking a way, it will.

Divine grace is the realization that God meets the needs of His children, and so I need not go out and proselyte or sell The Infinite Way. If anyone needs The Infinite Way, God will lead them here. Every individual will be led to the teaching necessary for their unfoldment, so I need not intrude. Let each one follow the light as it is given to them of God, and they will live by grace. So we come to "*Loose him and let him go.*" Let everyone be loosed in Christ, and trust everyone to the God of their own being. Do not hold them in bondage of any kind. Agree that no man owes you anything. Set this world free and let your good come through grace. It will come, and it will appear through normal, everyday channels – but you don't decide who or what. Hold no one in a debt of love, a debt of gratitude, or a debt of human relationships. Set them free. If they want to be loving, just, or kind, that's their affair. But don't expect love from

anyone, and don't force love on anyone. Don't force truth on anyone, and above all, do not force anyone to bring good to you. Loose them!

You learn the meaning of grace when you loose everyone in this world and say, "My expectancy is of God. **Thy** grace is my sufficiency, and I do not look to man for it." The greatest freedom comes when you do not feel any obligation to anyone, and you hold no one in obligation to you. Then you can express freely. It is one thing to give to someone because they have the right to expect it of you, but it's quite another to give of your own free will. It is wonderful to receive a gift that you haven't earned because there are no ties on those gifts and they go as grace. There are no ties on what we receive from God, and no return is demanded. So loose this world and let them go. You can do this only in proportion as you understand that God's grace is filling this space; filling this body with health, joy, peace, power, dominion, and good. God's grace is filling every moment with the divine Presence, which is Love and Life eternal. So you hold no one in bondage to an expectation. To me, that is grace.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." It is a matter of divine grace if you can feel that whatever task is given to you, the presence of God is there to fulfill it. *"He performeth that which is given me to do."* It is a matter of divine grace to go about your work knowing that you do not have to do it, but that you are **the instrument as which and through which it is done**. The responsibility is upon Its shoulders, and it is all accomplished by grace. Grace is the realization that we can perform every task given to us because the responsibility is not ours. We can fulfill every demand made upon us, not by might or power, but by grace.

In the human scene, many are called upon to do more than their fair share. That can set up resentment or a sense of injustice. But we must realize that we are called upon for more only because we have more. A great deal is expected from those that have, and whatever demand is made upon me is fulfilled through grace, not by my storehouse, my physical strength, or my wisdom or understanding. God performs it. So I can permit any demand to be made upon me, realizing that "I of my own self couldn't perform it, but through grace, I am given everything needed to fulfill it. This demand is not made upon me, but upon Him that sent me. The Father within me can meet it." God meets the demands, and when God meets them, they are met forever and are not a continuing obligation for us. That too, is grace – knowing that the Father carries the full responsibility for every task given to us.

[Meditation]

Grace includes the word "forgiveness." Sometimes we believe that we deserve punishment for sins of omission or commission, or that others deserve it. But under this life of grace, forgiveness comes in with no thought about whether or not one deserves it, for grace reveals that they have not done this to me. They have done it to themselves through ignorance. *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."* You might think that the Master meant "they know not what they do to **me**," but he meant "they don't know what they're doing to **themselves**." He knew that no one could do anything to him, for he was under divine Sonship. He had proven that God was his eternal life and supply; they could not take that from him. So the only possible meaning is, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing to themselves."

Likewise, our sense of forgiveness is a realization that no one can harm us. If we accept God as our being, what can happen to us? Can we be deprived of life, health, liberty, freedom, or supply? No one could take these things from us, because they didn't come from man. They came from God. No one can harm us in any way, for *"I and the Father are one, and all that the Father hath is mine."* So when we say, "Father, forgive them," we mean that they do not know

what they are doing to themselves in accepting hate, jealousy, fear or malice into their consciousness. Under the life of grace, there comes a freedom from injury, since divine grace reveals our divine Sonship, and that grace would maintain and sustain that Sonship under all circumstances. We saw that with Hitler. The world belief was that he was injuring, killing, and destroying others. But their life was God. Hitler hadn't killed anyone, but what he and others did to themselves is a sad affair. In some way, those who suffered were a part of the belief in suffering, the belief in a selfhood apart from God. They had not come under the state of grace, knowing God as their life and knowing Sonship as their true state of being.

No harm can come to one who has recognized his divine Sonship; who has recognized his life through grace. Anyone who recognizes God to be a sanctuary, a fortress, a hiding place, or an abiding place, can never come under the injury of wars or bombs or accident. Such things can happen only in our sense of separation from God, for the love of God means care, protection, security, and safety. Can anything separate us from the life or the love of God? Yes. Our acceptance of a sense of separation from God, or a sense of having a life of our own that begins and ends, will do it. Our sense of gaining something at somebody else's expense will do it. You never will find safety or security in another's destruction. You find safety and security in only one way – through grace. Grace is the love of God. Love is protection, and *"love worketh no injury to any man."* We must depend on the love and grace of God for safety and security, and not on the power of the sword, the bomb, or unfair competition.

Question: What should we expect this year as to world conditions that affect this country?

Answer: Most people are not satisfied with what they get out of any year, for there is no way of getting anything from anyone. Spiritually understood, life is not a "getting" process. It is a "giving" process, and we will get out of next year whatever we put in – no more and no less. It may be a year of peace, but it won't be for those who expect to get something. It may be a year of war and depression, but it won't be to the one who is giving love, forgiveness, understanding, and who is depending on grace. None of these things will come nigh their dwelling place.

It goes back to losing concern for what happens in this world. The Master was expected to set the Hebrews free of Rome. But he wasn't trapped by that. His teaching revealed: *"My kingdom is not of this world."* Moses and other prophets had given freedom to the Hebrews, and always they lapsed back into slavery. If Jesus gave them freedom, something would have taken it from them again. If we learn the secret of grace, of love, of a complete reliance on this infinite power within, we find a true spiritual freedom manifest in the outer realm that no man can take from us. So if you expect forms of good to come out of human conditions, you will be disappointed. But by putting it in, you find it reflected back.

I met a man on a train who lived in a very small town. He could go no further in his position, yet he was bright and had ideas. People told him to go to a big city, but he didn't want to leave his home town. He wanted to go into business, but it was the depression years. So he did two foolish things. He stayed in the little town, and he went into business! The year that I met him – still in the depression years – he had just declared a \$200,000 dividend for his employees. You can't get that in a small town during the depression. But you can put it in, and he did.

So we need not be concerned about conditions during these next few years. They won't come nigh your dwelling place **if** you are living and moving and having your being in Christ Consciousness. But if you cannot find a way to forgive, or to stop depending on man, or to put your entire faith in the power of grace, then you are the "nations of the world" seeking the things of the world out in the world.