

**Optional Study and Practice Suggestions for Chapter 3,  
“Spiritual Power Unveiled,” in *Awakening Mystical Consciousness***

This chapter adds depth to our understanding of all four foundational principles of The Infinite Way: the nature of God, the nature of individual being, the nature of error and the nature of prayer. It focuses on the nature of God as omnipotence, the nature of individual being as the Christ, the nature of error as nothingness, and the nature of prayer as listening in quietness and confidence. It can be helpful to use these four principles as a lens for looking at this chapter.

**Review the Chapter**

One approach to reviewing a chapter is to take each subsection in the chapter and identify the key points that stood out for you. You can also note any new insights or questions that came to you. Questions can be good starting points for contemplation.

Here is one example of a review of just the first four subsections in Chapter 3:

*A Fear-Ridden World*

- We experience fear and doubt because we have forgotten that **temporal power is not (and never was) a power when spiritual power is on the scene**. History has shown that all temporal powers eventually fail, but when there is temporal power and prosperity, we forget about spiritual power.
- We are told not to fear when temporal powers threaten to engulf us. That is the time to remember that spiritual power operates and how it operates.

*The Nature of Spiritual Power*

- Once we know the nature of spiritual power and how it operates, we must then *consciously* embody it, practice it, and bring it into our experience. Simply knowing about it does not make it operate in your experience, any more than knowing about water will quench a thirst. You have to drink the water.
- Spiritual power is not like a material or mental power and cannot be used to overcome material power. Spiritual power is to be **understood**, not **used** to overcome anything. **THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL POWER IS OMNIPOTENCE**. It is not one power among other powers. It is the **only** power.
- To bring spiritual power into your life, you must be able to look at any material power and realize, “God is the only power. You are not power and could have no power against me, except it were given thee from above (and it was not given to thee).” There is no power in matter or material force.

*Question that arose while studying this section: Could we say that spiritual power is simply IS?*

### *The Folly of Fighting Temporal Power*

- It is the will of God that we be whole, complete, perfect, eternal, immortal, sinless, and pure. We don't experience ourselves that way, because instead of realizing that the very nature of God is omnipresence and omnipotence, and resting quietly and peacefully in that truth, we have been looking for a God to DO something. But you cannot influence God or inaugurate God-action. God IS.
- We look outside for a God-power, but it is **already and has always been established within our own being, awaiting recognition**. Spiritual power operates from within our own being when we *let* it operate, unencumbered by our direction, our demands, or our interference.
- “Resist not evil” does not mean that we allow ourselves to be harmed by evil, but that we recognize that evil is not the power it seems to be. It is NOT a power. “Put up Thy sword” means to forego temporal power and trust spiritual power.
- If we accept the belief in two powers—God and some power other than God—we will always be looking for a power to DO something to the evils that plague us. These evils are not power except when we accept them as power.

*Question that arose while studying this section: If God is all, and there is nothing but God, why do we even talk about omnipresence and omnipotence?*

### *Proving Spiritual Power Is the All-Power*

In this section, Joel tells us what we must do to prove that spiritual power is the only power. He says that it may take a while to discipline ourselves to be able to look at any form of error and realize its non-power. This is because for so many centuries, we have lived in fear of temporal powers. But he makes these suggestions:

- **Recognize that the secret of spiritual power is that it is the all-power, and there are no other powers.** Any evil or discord is a power only while an individual accepts two powers. We as individuals have to prove the nothingness of error by accepting “resist not evil,” and resting in quietness and confidence in the truth about spiritual power.
- **Begin practicing with something simple**, such as a cold or indigestion, that does not frighten you, and gradually work up to the more serious issues. Refrain from the temptation to use *any* power—especially God-power—to fight it or overcome it. When we acknowledge God as Spirit and Spirit as the infinite All-power, we are no longer looking for a power.
- **Consciously declare to yourself, “From now on, I am accepting a God within me that is omnipotence and is always with me**, whether I ascend up to heaven, make my

bed in hell, or go through the valley of the shadow of death. This God is closer than breathing. The whole kingdom of God is within me.”

- **Consciously acknowledge and feel within yourself that God is the all-might, omnipotent, the all-power,** and learn to look out at anything you have feared and realize, “How foolish. The All-might is *within me*, and yet I have feared ‘man, whose breath is in his nostrils.’ I have feared alcohol, disease, false appetite, atheism, communism, even capitalism.” Then behold God at work and see the nature of spiritual power. When we fear, we are acknowledging a power other than God, we have two powers, and we are out of Eden.

### How Would You Explain Spiritual Power?

You may have noticed that our study book, *Awakening Mystical Consciousness*, has three parts. Part 1, “The Nature of Spiritual Power,” comprises the first three chapters of the book: “The Atheism of Material Power,” “Releasing Spiritual Power,” and ‘Spiritual Power Unveiled,’ which is our current study chapter.

As we conclude our study of Part 1, “The Nature of Spiritual Power,” it is a good time to review what we have learned about spiritual power.

One way to see how well we grasped what was taught about spiritual power is to imagine how we would explain it to someone else:

- Suppose that a new Infinite Way student came to you and said, “I have been reading about spiritual power in Joel’s books, but I still don’t quite understand it. Would you please clarify for me what Joel means by spiritual power?” How would you respond to the student?
- Suppose the student followed up with this question: “Well, I still can’t quite understand why Joel says that material powers are not power. I see material powers in action all the time. For example, the COVID virus killed millions of people, and there is a very destructive war in Ukraine. Would you help me better understand how seeming powers like the virus and the instruments of war are not powers?” How would you answer?

### Can Spiritual Power Dispel Fear?

The chapter subsection titled “Proving Spiritual Power Is the All-Power” addresses the topic of fear. Joel suggests that we have to get to the point where we can look at *any* form of error that we have feared, and realize that because God, Spirit, or spiritual power is the only power, the all-power, there are NO other powers.

As stated above, Joel recommends that we start with something simple, like a cold or indigestion, that does not frighten us and work up to the more serious issues. He suggests that we face them directly and refrain from trying to use any power, even God-power to fight it or overcome it.

- As an exercise, ask yourself, “Is there any material or mental power that I fear? (If you have no fears, you can stop right here.) For example, many people would say that at some level, they fear disease or death. Others fear nuclear bombs or the rise of dictators. Whatever seeming power you might fear, look right at it and ask yourself:
  - Is this power (or any power) greater than God?
  - Did God make this power?
  - If not, where did it come from, and where does it get its power?
  - What is it really?
  - Am I choosing to accept a power other than God?

Whatever I might fear, I am acknowledging a power other than God. But the kingdom of God is within me, so why do I fear anything? God, *I*, is within me, and no power is greater than *I*.

### Realizing the Christ Within

In our study chapter, Joel emphasizes that the Christ is not something outside us that must be sought. The Christ is **already within us**, awaiting our recognition and realization. Its function is to live our life, to raise us up, to redeem us, to prepare paths for us, and to prepare mansions for us. This Christ is not here to glorify me; Its function is to glorify God and to prove what life is when it is governed, maintained, and sustained by God.

But how can we come to fully realize this Christ within? Joel suggests that one way is to contemplate questions such as:

- What is the Christ?
- What is this Spirit of God in man?
- What is the function of the Christ in my life?
- What is the nature of the Presence that goes before me to make my way straight?
- What is the nature of the Power that appeared to Moses as a cloud, a pillar of fire, and manna falling from the sky?
- What is the nature of the Father within me that healed the sick for the Master?
- What is the nature of this Christ within me that enables me to forgive sinners?
- What is the nature of this Christ that is the bread, the meat, the wine, and the water unto me, the woman at the well, and anyone who wishes to come to me?

He says, “The way is within us. The way is introspection, meditation, inner communion, and recognition that the son of God dwells in us and is ready at all times to speak to us. In fact, It is speaking to us even when we do not hear It.”

When we realize the indwelling Christ, we become witnesses to God’s grace. We can do all things through that Christ, and we have that “My peace,” the peace that passes understanding. Then there is no need to worry or fear. This Christ-presence makes our path straight. We *let* this indwelling Spirit do its work. We *behold* God at work and resist the temptation to look for a power to use. We relax in the assurance that God is Spirit, and this Spirit has promised It will never leave us or forsake us. We stop fighting error, or trying to overcome it, and we acknowledge “God in the midst of me is almighty.” Then we see the nature of spiritual power.

### Contemplate the Bible Quotations from the Chapter

If you enjoy working with and contemplating Bible passages, here are some that Joel uses in this chapter. The full list for this chapter is in the “List of Scriptural References” at the back of the book.

- “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above. . .” (John 19:10-11)
- “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight” (John 18:36)
- “Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)
- “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “Resist not evil.” (Matthew 5:39)
- “Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.” (Matthew 26:52)
- “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.” (Psalm 139:7-8)
- “I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
- “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” (Galatians 2:20)
- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13)