

**Optional Study and Practice Suggestions for Chapter 11,
“Awakening to the Soul Faculties” in *Awakening Mystical Consciousness***

This insightful chapter focuses on the nature of individual being, highlighting the infinite scope of our true identity and how we can live by it.

Why Explore This Topic?

Joel suggests that when we commit ourselves to doing the things that will awaken our soul faculties, a whole new world opens to us. Here is a quote about Soul from the chapter, formatted sentence by sentence to facilitate pauses for contemplation.

There is only one Soul; and this is my Soul and the Soul of every person.

It is with us individually and collectively as a source of light, grace, and peace.

The Soul is my reliance.

The Soul is my hiding place and my abiding place; the Soul is the temple of God.

The Soul is the source of the living waters.

The Soul has within It the capacity for my resurrection, redemption, and regeneration.

This Soul is incorporeal, spiritual, infinite, and therefore omnipresent.

It is right here where we are, but It requires the stillness of the mind for us to make contact with It.

It is from the Soul that the Voice comes and says, “My grace is thy sufficiency; My life is thy life; My peace is thy peace.”

It is from the Soul that safety and security flow.

The Soul is the source of life eternal, life harmonious, and life joyous.

In the Soul are all the issues of life, the opportunities for service and for fruitage of all kinds.

None of the terrors by night or by day, none of the snares, none of the pitfalls, come near the dwelling place of those who dwell in their Soul; who live, move, and have their being in their Soul; whose reliance, confidence, and hope are in the Soul; who look to their Soul always for nourishment, grace, peace, resurrection, and regeneration.

When we know and recognize our Soul as the Source of our life, our continuity and fruitage, we live our outer life normally and joyously, watching its coming and going without fear and without discouragement because of the renewal that immediately begins to take place within the Soul.

In our Soul we find our rest and refreshment.

And:

It [the Soul] is a Presence that goes before us to arrange things for us, do for us, and prepare for us, to prepare those “many mansions.”

It knows exactly what we are to do and directs us to it, even if it is something that ordinarily would not have come to our attention.

As we contemplate these wonders of Soul, we cannot help but have the willingness to do whatever we can to awaken the Soul and Its faculties.

Asking Questions

In the recording we heard for this chapter, Joel says, “The harmony of our experience is dependent on only one thing: to know Him aright—to know God, to understand God.” In the chapter, Joel suggests that we ask and ponder questions—as he says, “pertinent and even impertinent” questions—and let answers come from within. He tells us not to be afraid of any question, including the question, “Is there a God?”

Joel maintains that questioning ourselves, contemplating, being willing to empty ourselves of preconceived beliefs, and opening ourselves to an inner wisdom, will go a long way toward understanding the nature of God and awakening us to the Christ, our spiritual center, our Soul faculties. When we are awakened, a whole new experience opens to us.

- What questions do you have that you can take into contemplation? If you could use some prompting, the recording provides many ideas for questions to ask ourselves.
- Sometimes we remain unaware of old beliefs that might be operating as obstacles to our unfoldment, and from time to time, it can be helpful to consciously ask ourselves, “Am I holding on to any remnants of old erroneous beliefs? If so, what are they? Can I consciously release them?”
- Joel tells us that we are here only for one purpose, and that is to fulfill **God’s** purpose in us—not **our** purpose, as we see it humanly. Ask yourself, “Am I living to fulfill God’s purpose in me? If not, what could change to make that possible?”

Bible Quotations

In both the chapter and the recording, Joel references several Bible quotations that speak to the subject of the nature of Soul and Its faculties. Some of these are given below.

- “The place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” (Exodus 3:5)
- “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)

- “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)
- “I Am That I Am.” (Exodus 3:14)
- “My grace is sufficient for thee.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- “I go before you to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)
- “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)
- “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” (Psalm 91:1-11)
(Note: Joel uses only parts of this passage in the chapter.)

What passages from Scripture (Bible or other sacred texts) come to you as you ponder the essence of this chapter? Write them down as they come to you. Once you start the flow, you may be surprised at how many more will come to you. Any of these would be wonderful for contemplation, in which we can ask, “What does this passage really mean? How does it relate to the Soul?” As Joel suggests, we can let the answers come up from within.

Questions from New Students

One way to calibrate our understanding of the message is to see how we would answer questions from new students. Here are a few such questions relating to this chapter.

- Student: “In the section of this chapter titled ‘Awakening the Soul-Center,’ Joel says, ‘A miracle happens in our experience when we begin to know that God is the mind of man.’ But recently, I was listening to a class in which Joel said that the mind of man was made up of both good and evil, and so it cannot be God. (Recording 330A). I’m confused by this seeming contradiction. Can you clarify this for me?”
- Student: “Joel says, ‘True prayer is meant to destroy our faith in anything and everything that can be seen, heard, tasted, touched, or smelled. It removes our faith from effect.’ But doesn’t that leave us stranded with nothing to rely on? How could we live without the things that we see, hear, taste, touch, or smell?”
- Student: “Joel says, ‘We are here only for one purpose, and that is to fulfill **God’s** purpose in us—not **our** purpose.’ Yet in some classes that I heard, he also said that there is no God

'out there,' external to ourselves, and that the only true name for God is *I*. He said that this *I* is already within me, and that it is my true identity. So does Joel really mean that my purpose is to fulfill the purpose of the *I* that I am, which would mean that I am to fulfill my **Self**—not my human self, my limited concept of who I am, but the infinite being that I truly am?"

Practice, Practice, Practice

Both in the chapter and in the recording we heard, Joel encourages us to practice relying more and more on this divine Presence within and its infinite faculties, rather than on anyone or anything external to us.

It can be a revelation just to watch ourselves throughout the day and notice the times when we are willing to rely on the Presence, the Soul, and notice the times—if any—when we are not willing or able to put our reliance there. It can be instructive to notice when we remember to turn to the infinite faculties of Soul and when we forget.

Our goal is captured in this passage from Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord [the Christ of your being, the Presence within, the Soul], with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own [your human] understanding. In ALL thy ways, acknowledge him [the Presence within, the Soul], and he [It] will direct your paths."