

**Optional Study and Practice for
The Eight Most Important Chapters Revisited, Session 3: “God Is One”
Recording 23B: “God Is, continued”**

This chapter addresses the four major principles of The Infinite Way message—the nature of God, the nature of individual being, the nature of error, and the nature of prayer. It shows how the nature of God gives rise to the nature of individual being and the nature of error and prayer. The key word throughout the chapter is “IS.” As Joel points out, all you can rightly say about God is “GOD IS.”

Joel says that his wish for us is not that we accept what his experience in and with God has been, but that each of us may experience God, know God, feel God, love and understand God, and finally realize Godhood. In this chapter, he continues to lead us on that journey.

As always, these study suggestions are just that—suggestions, ideas for ways to study the chapter and the recording. Choose any that resonate with you or simply let them function as “thought starters” for you to create your own study ideas.

What Joel Said about This Chapter

In the introductory recording, 453A, Joel had this to say about this chapter: “Now, in *Living the Infinite Way*, we have a chapter ‘God is One.’ Throughout this chapter you have, you might call it, a whole treatment of oneness, and if sometime during the day you can take that chapter, you will find yourself then living in this atmosphere or consciousness of oneness, and you can realize how little chance duality has to get under your skin, to get into your consciousness, to do anything to you.”

Pick Out the “Pearls”

In several of his classes, Joel suggests that we learn to “pick out the pearls” in a lesson, meaning that we should identify the key points or principles, work with them, apply them, use them, and live with them.

- What are the “pearls” for you in this chapter and class?

Questions to Ponder

Both in the class and in the chapter, Joel asks several rhetorical questions, but he also suggests that we think deeply about them. He says that contemplation helps us come to intellectual agreement with the principle involved, and then at some point, there will come a moment when we go from intellectual agreement to spiritual agreement. Spiritual agreement is the feeling within of “Yes, that is the truth; I feel the truth of that.”

Here are a few of the questions that can be worthwhile to ponder:

- We have the commandment "Thou shalt acknowledge no other power but God." If God is the only power, what am I fearing? Germs? Infection? Contagion? If God is the only power, can these things have any power?
- Do I fear lack or limitation? How can lack or limitation affect me, if only God is power?
- Do I fear wars and bombs? What would happen to the power of a bomb if I could realize God as the only power?
- If I could accept God as the only power, what change would come into my life?

In contemplating God as the only power, it is important to remember that Joel also teaches that to say "Evil is not a power" is only a half-truth. We must add, "In the presence of the realized consciousness;" that is, "Evil is not a power in the presence of the realized consciousness." Indeed, evil appears to be very powerful in the presence of human consciousness, because human consciousness gives it power. You may remember Joel saying that this is an "iffy" path. "IF you dwell in the secret place of the Most High, no evil will come nigh your dwelling place;" "IF you abide in me and let my words abide in you . . ."

- If God is the only law, is there a law of disease? If there is no law of disease, what is causing disease? What is perpetuating it?
- If God is one, how can God be used for any purpose? What would God be used for? Why?
- "All that God **is**, is now. All that the Father hath **is** now. All that the Father hath **is** mine, now. All that the Father **is**, I Am now." Do you follow that? What does it mean to you?
- How does this chapter relate to "The New Horizon," our previous study chapter?

Questions from A New Student

One way to tell how well we have grasped an idea is to see if we can explain it to another. Consider these questions from new students:

- "Joel talks about 'the state of consciousness called IS, resting in that IS. It IS.' But I don't really get this. What does he mean by 'the state of consciousness called IS'?"
- "In this chapter, Joel says, 'And now my prayer is no longer asking or affirming. My prayer is the realization, the recognition, of *is*. Whatever good has come into your consciousness in the form of desire or hope already *is*. There is no power to bring it to you tomorrow.' But in my experience, the good does not come right away. If it comes at all, it may come tomorrow or later than tomorrow. So what does he mean that the good already *is* and that there is no power to bring it to you tomorrow?"

Practice

How can we practice the lessons in this chapter? Here are a couple of Joel’s suggestions.

- *Withhold judgment and let the Father show you what spiritually is.*

“At this point I remind you: Your difficulty and my difficulty is that as we walk through the experience of everyday affairs, the temptation will continually arise to say good or bad, sick or well, rich or poor, lack or abundance, sin or purity. Continuously we are faced with not only the Master’s three temptations. With us, there are three million temptations—always the temptation to look at the woman taken in adultery and throw a few stones of criticism, judgment, condemnation; to think of the thief caught in the act, about to be sentenced, and judge him, criticize him, call him bad.

“Oh, we are tempted from morning to night and night to morning to believe in appearances and to label them—label them good and bad, label them right and wrong. And the temptation is terrific, but it must be resisted. **We must learn to look at person, circumstance, condition, even disease, and withhold judgment. Just realize IS. IS. And then let the Father define that which IS. IS. IS, and let the Father define, let the Father outline, let the Father show forth that which spiritually IS.** ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ There’s no use trying to judge the spiritual kingdom from appearances. It will not work.

“Now the study and the practice of The Infinite Way is a development of spiritual consciousness. It is not going through human existence picking out all the wrong things and finding a system whereby we make them right. It is no such thing. **It is looking through appearances of both human good and human evil, and learning to behold the spiritual reality, which always IS, even where that appearance seems to be.**”

- *Ponder “God Is”*

“I can only tell you this, that if you can start, without prejudice, without opinion, theory, concept of what God is, just start with the realization, ‘Of course, God *is*, that I know. God *is*, that I know,’ and dwell with that, ponder it, keep your thought in line with that until out of the depth of your withinness, the experience will come revealing what God *is*, and how God operates, how God acts in and through this marvelous universe.

“But all of that will be through your spiritual discernment and your spiritual discernment will never come through just making agreeing statements with what others have written about God. Spiritual discernment will come with every God-experience *you* have. And you can only have a God-experience through voicing the truth. And what is the only truth that you know? God *is*. That’s all you know. That’s all the spiritual wisdom you know. That’s all you ever can know until God reveals more from within your own being.”

“You won’t find health and wealth added to you. You will find that health and wealth have been included in you since before ever Abraham was. You will find that since God is the Infinite nature of your being, all harmony, all good, is included in the infinitude of that one spiritual being. But this you will experience for yourself, not by believing me; not by accepting my word. . . . Spiritual experience can only come to you through your own experience.”

“One thing you do know—God is. Hold that to yourself, live with it, be satisfied with it until, to what you already know, to what you already have of spiritual wisdom, will be added the balance, ‘For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance.’ You have this spiritual wisdom that God *is*, and by pondering it, meditating upon it, and thinking upon it within your own being, there will be added unto you all the rest: who God is; what God is; how God is. The way will be made clear to you from within your own being.”

Additional Reference Material

When we studied this chapter in 2018, we provided a list of several wisdoms of *The Infinite Way* that focus on the word “IS.” All of the wisdoms are included in the book *The Infinite Way*, and the ones that focus on “IS” complement our study of the chapter “God Is One.” Any one of them could start a contemplative meditation. To view, print, or download a list of these “IS” Wisdoms, [click/tap here](#).