

## Optional Study and Practice for The 1962 Los Angeles Closed Class Session 7: Recording 463A “Son of God Raised Up”

*In the previous class (462B), Joel taught that one facet of praying aright is recognizing the nature of the Christ. He said that prayer is really an activity of the Christ that flows through us to bless the world. In this class (463A), Joel uses Scripture to build an entire lesson on the nature of the Christ, or the I within.*

*Since Scripture is such a strong throughline for this lesson, the brief outline of the class given below highlights the many Scripture references in the class. We have used these quotations as shorthand to capture much of Joel's discourse instead of summarizing his words.*

*Our suggestion for practice is to work deeply with those Scripture verses. Take just a few at a time and contemplate them in light of what Joel teaches in the class. You may have new insights into the meaning of the verse, or Joel's remarks might prompt an entirely new interpretation for you. Make notes to capture your insights and interpretations. As you work, other related quotations may come to you from the Bible, from other Scriptures, or from other spiritual writings. Make a note of these, too.*

*Note: In some cases we have cited the Bible verse as Joel quotes it, rather than as it is given in the Bible. For these we use the citation “(See [reference])”*

### **The Need to Take God into Our Experience**

Joel begins the class by pointing out that many people believe they can build successful lives without God, and it doesn't work out. On the other hand, many people have discovered that when they take God into their lives, life can be healthful, successful, joyous, and harmonious. Taking God into our lives means to come into an actual experience of God.

- “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)
- “Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace.” (Job 22:21)
- “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God.” (John 17:3)

### **The Experience of Moses**

Moses rose so high in consciousness that the secret of God revealed Itself to him. He realized that God was within him, within his very consciousness. He realized God as the I that I am, his very Selfhood, God's own presence. With this illumined awareness, Moses was able to lead the Hebrews out of slavery and across the desert, right up to the Promised Land.

- “I am that I am.” (Exodus 3:14)
- “I in the midst of me is mighty.” (See Zephaniah 3:17)
- “The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Joshua 1:9) “Whither thou goest, I will go” (Ruth 1:16)
- “He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” (Deuteronomy 31:6) “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)
- “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)
- “I will put the words in thy mouth.” (See Exodus 4:12)
- “I go before thee to make the crooked places straight.” (Isaiah 45:2)

### **Jesus Revealed the I Again**

After Moses, just a few Hebrew prophets had the awareness of the name and nature of God, but largely that awareness was lost. Yet the truth of God as *I* in the midst of us was never lost. When Jesus came, he revealed the truth once again that *I*, the very *I* of your being, is God.

- “The kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21)
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)
- “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)
- “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)
- “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)
- “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “I ascend unto my Father, and your Father.” (John 20:17)
- “And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.” (Matthew 23:9)

### **How God Is Lost and How God is Found Again**

God is lost when we worship or give power to something or someone external to our own being. God can be lost when we deify a man, or when we think that we can name God. God can be lost if we put our faith in an organization. In other words, God is lost when we fail to recognize that *I* in the midst of me is God. But when I have the realization that God is the very *I* of my being, God cannot be lost.

- “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)
- “To know God aright is life eternal” (See John 17:3)

You can only know God when you give up every concept of God and abide in stillness until something within you says, “*I*. *I* am the only thing that isn't external to you. *I* am the only thing that is not objective to you. *I* am the very essence of your being. There is only one Being, and *I* am that infinite divine Being.” *I* is God.

### **The Nature and Function of the Christ, or *I***

What is the nature and function of this *I*, or the Christ? *I* is in the midst of every individual—even the enemy. The soul of every individual is this same God presence. It is this same *I*, appearing as the presence of God, even though the individual may not be awake to It.

Your recognition of the *I* raises the Christ out of the tomb of ignorance and lifts the Christ up into the center of your consciousness, where you know: *I* in the midst of me is mighty. *I* is the resurrection and the life. *I* is Christ, the Son of God.

When the Christ is lifted up, It walks the earth in you. The presence of God, the spirit of God, walks the earth in you. It goes before you. It is within and without, above and beneath. It is with you in life and in death, for not even death can separate you from this Christ of God, which *I* am. As long as you have *I*, you have nothing to fear. The nature of this *I*, God, is light, is wisdom, and is freedom—not a freedom *from* anything, but a freedom *in* Christ.

This *I*, the Christ within you, is not a disciplinarian, a judge, or a critic. Its nature is love, which expresses as care and as a forgiveness that dissolves whatever is erroneous in your human nature without judging, criticizing, or condemning it. It makes no difference whether you are a saint or a sinner when you discover God within you. You could be in the deepest scarlet of sin, but in the moment that you discover *I*, God within you, you will be white as snow, and the past will be wiped out. You could be in the depth of disease, even unto death, and if you discover God, *I* will be the resurrection and the life unto you. *I* will make up for all the years that the locust has taken. *I* will do this—*I* in the midst of you.

This Presence, the Christ, this *I* within you, says to you:

- “My peace give I unto you, not as the world giveth.” (John 14:27)
- “My grace is sufficient for thee.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- “I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight.” (Isaiah 45:2)
- “I go before you to prepare mansions for you.” (See John 14:2)
- “I am the bread of life.” (John 6:35)
- “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)

- “I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten.” (Joel 2:25)
- “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” (Psalm 24:1) and “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.” (Luke 15:31)
- “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” (Isaiah 1:18)
- “It is I; be not afraid.” (John 16:20)
- “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:10)
- “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)
- “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20)
- “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- “For the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.” (Isaiah 52:12)
- “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36)
- “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit.” (Zechariah 4:6)
- “And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.” (Matthew 23:9)
- “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)
- “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17)

### **God Comes into Manifestation through Recognition**

In spiritual development, we go through degrees that lead eventually to the death of the old man and the rebirth of the new man. As the light of truth is poured into consciousness, the old man begins to die, and suddenly illumination takes place, and you are aware of a divine presence within you. The new man is born. The Son of God is raised up in you.

How do we come to this rebirth?

- “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)
- “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of? (Isaiah 2:22)
- “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)
- “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)
- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)
- “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” (Galatians 2:20)
- “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)
- “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, none of these evils will come nigh his dwelling place.” (See Psalm 91)

### Contemplations from the Class

Joel gave two beautiful contemplations in this class, which can be helpful to use throughout the day.

“The Son of God, the presence of God, the *I* that the Master proclaimed, is raised up in me. I now know that *I* in the midst of me is God. I now know that the *I* in the midst of me is my mediator, my Messiah, my Christ. I know that *I* is my meat, my wine, my water, my drink. The wellspring of life that bubbles up into life everlasting, that is this *I*; and now It is raised up in me because I am consciously aware, whereas before, this *I* was buried in the tomb. Now It is resurrected and raised up into living life and walks this earth as me, as the *I* of you. Christ walks this earth, no longer entombed, but raised up, because now you know the truth.”

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“In any moment of temptation, sing a song to yourself: Whithersoever shall I flee from Thy Spirit? How can I get away from Myself; the divine Presence that is within me? Be still; be quiet; I need not fight. Put up thy sword. The Christ that now liveth in thee will go before thee. You need not fight. Be still and see the salvation of that God that you now know; in whom you live and whom you have living in you, with whom you commune, with whom you are one.

“How shall I worship God? In silence, in gratitude, in peace. And in any necessary moment, listen for that voice within you to say: ‘My peace give I unto you. My kingdom is not of the outer world. I am not a temporal power. Retire within Me and receive My grace. Receive My peace; and all these outer things will be added unto you, not by might, nor by power, but by

My Spirit, by this Spirit that dwelleth in you. Rest in Me. Be at peace in Me. *I* am closer to you than breathing. Relax, rest, be at peace in Me.'

"The Son of God is raised up out of the tomb of ignorance and now lives in me, and walks in me and talks in me, and I tabernacle with the presence of God that is within me. I meditate and I commune with this inner Presence. I dedicate my life to the God within. I dedicate my life to the soul of man, the spirit of man, the invisible Presence that never leaves me nor forsakes me.

"If I build, I build with God. If I buy, I buy with God. If I sell, I sell with God. God shall accompany me every step of my journey through life and eventually through death into that realm that lies beyond the world of corporeality. I seek my wisdom of the Father within me, my strength, my joy, my peace. I shall abide forever in the household of the Lord, in the Kingdom of God that is within me.

"The Father that seeth these thoughts in secret rewardeth openly. The Father that seeth the purity of my love rewardeth openly, not in a human sense of reward—there is no reward or punishment in that sense—but makes manifest.

"I understand now the ninety-first Psalm: 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, none of these evils will come nigh his dwelling place.' Underneath are the everlasting arms. Now I understand the fifteenth chapter of John: 'If I abide in Him and let Him abide in me, I will bear fruit richly. If I do not abide in Him and let Him abide in me, I will be as a branch of a tree that is cut off and withereth and dies.'"