

Notes about the Chapter “The New Horizon” in *The Infinite Way* by Joel S. Goldsmith

In Chapter 10 of *The Contemplative Life*, Joel identified eight chapters in *The Infinite Way* writings that he said *Infinite Way* students should know “as well as they know their own names.” Since then, these have often been referred to as the “most important chapters.” The first one on Joel’s list is “The New Horizon,” in *The Infinite Way*. Joel often spoke about this chapter and its importance, and this document presents several of those quotations from Joel.

Also, Lorraine Sinkler prepared a list of class recordings in which Joel addresses some aspect of the lesson of “The New Horizon,” at least in a part of the class. That list is provided at the end of this document.

How the Chapter Came About

“**The chapter ‘The New Horizon’ in *The Infinite Way* was never written. It was not written as the other writings are written. It came through in an entirely different way. It came through in a dream, word for word as it appears in that chapter. It came through in a dream written in gold old English lettering on a red silk banner that was suspended from my ceiling to my bed. I awakened out of the sleep to find that banner still there, and I took the pencil and paper from my night table and copied down that message word for word. Afterwards I saw this banner fold itself up and disappear, and it has never reappeared, and that is **the chapter ‘The New Horizon.’**”¹**

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“Personally, I’m not one who dreams too much, but in my lifetime, I suppose I have dreamed at least a hundred times. But I’ve never yet known one of those dreams that had any significance. At least I’ve never seen anything of it that would indicate that it did. They all seemed to be something nonsensical that more or less arose from eating too late before going to bed, or something else. I’ve never had a dream in my life but one that had significance, and that one was the dream that gave me the chapter ‘**The New Horizon**’ in the book *The Infinite Way*. I was asleep when that came. But I knew I was asleep, and I knew it was there hanging over my bed, and I forced myself awake, and when I awakened it was still there, and I wrote it down. And that’s **the chapter ‘New Horizon,’ which is the most important chapter in all of our writings.**”²

The Importance of the Chapter

“**For the serious student, the most important chapter in *The Infinite Way* is ‘The New Horizon,’** because in it can be found the explanation of the reinterpretation of what you behold. In other words, this chapter explains clearly that the entire human picture is mesmeric suggestion, and it is this suggestion of a selfhood apart from God that you are called upon to reinterpret.

¹ Tape 112, Side 1, 1955 Kailua Study Group, “Cosmic Law and Realized Christ.”

² Tape 236, Side 2, 1958 Manchester Closed Class, “Healing.”

“After you have practiced this for a while, it becomes automatic for you, as you see people and events, to translate or reinterpret them, and then you really see them as they are without any mental gyrations.”¹

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“For those who seek to understand clearly the spiritual sense of life, the chapter ‘**The New Horizon**’ in *The Infinite Way*, sometimes called ‘The Practitioner’s Chapter,’ **is the most important writing in the entire message.** Most people are not so much interested in the spiritual sense of life as they are in enjoying a harmonious physical sense of life. A harmonious physical sense of life is very pleasant and, of course, it is much more comfortable than an inharmonious sense of physical life. But we, as students of The Infinite Way, should not be satisfied merely with a physical sense of health because regardless of what degree of harmony we may be experiencing today, it all can be changed by tomorrow. We are making the transition, as rapidly as possible, from the physical sense of health to the spiritual sense of health. And with the spiritual sense of health comes the discovery that health is not dependent upon the organs and functions of the body...it is a quality and an activity of God!”²

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“Study well the chapter ‘**The New Horizon**’ in *The Infinite Way*. **Never let this chapter get stale. Never neglect this chapter.** It is for you who are advanced enough to understand a principle of life—not have mere blind faith in an unknown God.”³

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“I will also call your attention to the October Letter in *The Infinite Way Letters of 1958* and ask you to study those for many months, and for the same reason. This shows you how to free yourself of the mesmeric suggestion of two powers, and of course, **the most important writing on this entire subject is the chapter, ‘New Horizon’ in *The Infinite Way*.**”⁴

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“Now, here’s what happens if, in your experience, The Infinite Way proves to be your message. The very first citation here [*on the list of most important chapters*] is **the chapter “The New Horizon” in *The Infinite Way*.** In this chapter you will find the basic principles that led to this becoming a teaching of its own. You will understand why other methods of healing will not mix with this one. You will quickly see that in our work, it is not necessary to know the name of the patient. It is not necessary to know the name of the disease. It isn’t even necessary to know whether it’s a disease or a business problem, although there are times when it is helpful to know some particular problem that is disturbing the individual, as for instance, if it is just a physical or mental claim. You will find that all of the necessary principles for the development of consciousness in healing these conditions are to be found in **this chapter “The New Horizon” in *The Infinite Way*.**”⁵

¹ *Conscious Union with God* (1962 edition), Chapter 4, “The Nature of Error,” page 89.

² *The Heart of Mysticism*, May 1956 Letter, “A Beholder,” pages 337-338.

³ Tape 12, Side 1, 1952 Honolulu Class Series One, “The Thunder of Silence.”

⁴ Tape 413, Side 1, 1961 Manchester Special Class, “Foundation of Spiritual Healing and Living.”

⁵ Tape 453, Side 1, 1962 Mission Inn Class, “Special References for Study and Practice.”

The Meaning of the Chapter

"This is without any question of doubt not only the deepest lesson of the message of The Infinite Way; it is the one I seldom give. Probably not more than four times in eight years have I given this lesson, and then not in just this way. ... Actually, it forms **the chapter 'The New Horizon,'** which I still find very few students making a serious effort to understand or to demonstrate. But this is the lesson of **the chapter 'New Horizon.'** This is the lesson on healing, because if you are able to heal spiritually without knowing this lesson, you will be very apt to lose your healing gift eventually because it engenders a blind faith or a faith in a personal gift, whereas spiritual healing has nothing to do with either blind faith or with a personal gift.

"Spiritual healing has to do with the understanding of the spiritual principle of life, and that is this: God is the principle of life, and God maintains and sustains this universe, including everyone in it, in absolute spiritual integrity. Whereas on the other hand, you have an appearance world, a dream world, a mesmeric world, which has no law to support it, no substance to sustain it, no continuity except that which we, in our ignorance, give it by not recognizing that it is constituted of nothingness, a dream fabric. Once you perceive this, you will have a healing principle which will stand by you regardless of the nature of the problems that are brought to you."¹

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"Reinterpret everything you see, hear, taste, touch and smell. Reinterpret it back to its original state, which is Godhood. Be sure that you practice right identification, knowing that all that appears to you is God appearing as the individual man, woman or child; God appearing as the plant, the animal, the crops; and then knowing what the human eye sees is the *misconception of that divine idea*. What the human eye sees, what the human ear hears, is the *false picture* presented by this thing I call 'hypnotism' or 'suggestion.' It is the same thing that presents the two tracks coming together in the distance, or presents the sky sitting on the mountain, or presents the imaginary white poodle. I really do not care what name or term you find for it. Just be sure you are willing not to get so absolute that you won't reinterpret what is appearing to you in the scene.

"In the book *The Infinite Way*, **the most important chapter for the metaphysician is 'The New Horizon.'** This chapter is the explanation of what I have just said: the reinterpretation of what you behold. In other words, it tells you clearly that the entire human picture is mesmeric suggestion. It is a suggestion coming to you of a selfhood apart from God. You are called on to reinterpret it. What happens after you have done that for a while? You don't have to *try* to do it anymore. It becomes automatic. As you see people and events, you translate them, or reinterpret them. You really see them as they are, without any mental protest.

"That is one reason why we need so little treatment in this work. Because the very moment a person, place or thing presents itself to us, we immediately say, 'I know you – God appearing!' Then the second thing: 'Oh, but how sick or sinful!' That we can reinterpret. We say, 'That is but the *false sense* of God appearing. That is the suggestion, the human sense of things, and is purely illusory.' As you learn not to fight it or battle it, you come into oneness with the Reality and that's all there is to it."²

¹ Tape 113, Side 2, 1955 Kailua Study Group, "The Secret of the Healing Principle."

² *Consciousness in Transition*, Chapter 5, "The Nature of Error," pages 79-80.

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“In the early days of Infinite Way work, or rather I should say the earliest days, students were shocked by **that chapter ‘New Horizon,’** in which it says that God does not enter the human scene, and there is no God *in* the human scene. And there isn’t! If there were a God in the human scene, the human scene would be divine, spiritual, perfect, eternal, and harmonious, instead of being a universe of temporalities—temporary good, temporary evil, mortality, sin, disease, and death. There can’t be a God in that scene. There is no God in that scene.”¹

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“No, we don’t want physical health. I don’t mean that we *un-*want it. I mean that is not the object of our work. Just because a patient says, “I have no fever” and “My body seems all right,” that isn’t our work. Our work is to realize that even the appearance of physical health is only a *misinterpretation of the divine health which is life eternal*. That **goes back to ‘New Horizon’ in the book *The Infinite Way***. Every human picture is mesmeric suggestion. Every human picture is a finite presentation of the infinite—even the good ones! Even the good ones! Ask some of your millionaires whether they think it so good to be a millionaire. Ask some of the healthy people whether they are happy or contented. No, *every human picture!*”²

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This will lead you to see eventually why **the chapter, ‘New Horizon,’** emphasizes that the entire human experience is illusory in that there is no substance in it, no life, no continuity. It exists only while we perpetuate it in thought. When we’ve dropped it from thought, it’s as dead as yesterday’s newspaper and some of today’s, too.³

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“Now, you know that in our advanced work such as *The Thunder of Silence*, or **our practitioners’ chapter, *The New Horizon***, and in any of the teachings that I have given to practitioners, you will find that I have brought forcibly to your attention that behind all of the discords of the world is hypnotism, a mass hypnotism, not a hypnotism from one individual to another so much as a mass mesmeric sense that binds us, and it is not a subject that is easily understood.

“I know it is not easily understood how there can exist a mesmerism that binds us when we’re not even aware of it. When you are free of that hypnotism, you can see the world *as it is* and when you’re not free of it, you can only see it from the hypnotized standpoint. For instance, from the hypnotized standpoint, you have a fear of your body; you have a fear of lack. That’s the most natural thing in the world because that’s what the hypnosis does to one. It makes one think that you live as a body, and so you want nothing to happen to that body for fear it’s happening to your life.

“Now here is what happens when that hypnotism lifts. If you were to look out of this door onto that garden you would notice those trees, and at some stage or other some of those palm fronds would be brown, dead, about to fall off. You’ve all witnessed the palm fronds falling

¹ Tape 148, Side 2, 1956 Second Steinway Hall Practitioner Class, “Christ Attained.”

² *Consciousness in Transition*, Chapter 17, “Opening Consciousness to Truth,” pages 217-218.

³ Tape 114, Side 2, 1955 Kailua Study Group, “How to Pray.”

when they’ve reached a certain stage of their development. And you say, ‘Well, it’s a dead leaf or a dead frond, a dead branch, and it falls off.’

“Now, in the hypnotized state, we would say, ‘You see, everything dies and so I will die.’ And all around you as you see flowers dying, animals dying, people dying, you become impressed with that sense of the inevitability of death and you think, ‘So will I die.’ That’s all based on the fact that we believe that we have a relationship like that frond; in other words, that we are a branch, or that our body is ‘us.’ And you see, the minute that hypnosis is lifted, you’ll find out that none of that is true. If every branch falls off, the life of the tree is still there. It will be there forever, for the life isn’t in the tree. The life is God Itself. If you remove the whole tree, the life will still be there and will appear as another tree in its due time.

“So with this, once the hypnotism begins to lessen. You will see that this body isn’t me. This is my body, but *I* am invisible. The minute you perceive that, you will understand that this body changes. In my younger days, doctors told us that we get a new body about seven years. Then they told us every three years, and now they begin to tell us it’s every year that the whole bloodstream changes; that the molecules of the skin and the pores change; and that the whole structure of our body changes once a year, so that at the end of that period, none of the current body is left any more. We’re a whole new creation.

“Well, you see, literally we have died. That is, our bodies have died, but that which constitutes us has raised up a new one. As a matter of fact, It is doing that all the time. This hair grows out and is cut off, and more grows. These fingernails are cut off, and more grow. The skin sloughs off, and more skin forms. And so it is that the body is continually sloughing off, dying, and being reborn, but you and I go on forever. We have come from infancy to our present stage, and with this hypnotic influence of the world removed, you’re going to learn that you go on forever, even if the whole body were buried or cremated. It would make no difference. You will already have formed a new body long before they’ve moved you down to the mortuary. You will have formed a whole new body, and so your whole fear of death is overcome. You no longer are concerned what they do to this temple because in three days, *I* will raise up a new one. And three days can really mean three seconds. Instantly we are renewed.”¹

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“And so it is that I’ve heard people say, ‘I’ve read these books for years, and I can’t do anything with them.’ I don’t doubt that. I think it was in either *Metaphysical Notes* or *Consciousness Unfolding*, that I said to the class that the whole secret of *The Infinite Way* was in one chapter—**‘The New Horizon’ in the book *The Infinite Way***—and that if that chapter were known, nobody would ever need to know anything else.

“A lady came to me a few weeks later and said that she’s memorized it and nothing happened. And I don’t doubt that. Because you see, the mental level isn’t the level of demonstration; the intellectual level isn’t the level of demonstration.”²

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¹ Tape 181, Side 2, 1957 Kailua Advanced Class, “Third Degree—Surrendering Human Sense of Health, Supply, Peace.”

² Tape 195, Side 1, 1957 Second Halekou Closed Class, “The New Dimension.”

“Remember the import of tonight’s lesson – it is covered, too, in **‘New Horizon’ of *The Infinite Way***. It is covered now in another way, another angle, another sense, so that you can see that we are not to be satisfied even with good human pictures. We are immediately to translate them. We are not to be satisfied by human physical health. We are not to be satisfied with physical wealth. Don’t be satisfied, either, with the mere fact that you have a loyal wife, a loyal husband, or a loyal friend. Sometimes when your dependence is in the human, you find humans turn on you. They do that very often. But if we are always reversing that picture and saying, ‘I know that every bit of good here is the infinite good of God individualizing itself in my experience; I know that all of this good coming to me is God’s good,’ then we have nothing to fear. We don’t have to rest there and hope that this good human is going to keep on being good or friendly or honest. Do you follow that?

“The whole essence tonight is: Do not let us either be good humans or be satisfied with good humanness! Let us not be engaged in a ministry of making sick people well or poor people rich, when actually our work is that of spiritual unfoldment.”¹

¹ *Consciousness in Transition*, Chapter 17, “Opening Consciousness to Truth,” p. 223.

"New Horizon Tapes"

Because this chapter came to Joel in a dream, there are no class tapes that are source material for the chapter. Joel said that he seldom gave the lesson that is in "The New Horizon." Lorraine Sinkler prepared the following list of recordings in which Joel addresses some aspect of the lesson of "The New Horizon," at least in some part of the class. This list was presented in *A Compendium of Joel S. Goldsmith's Infinite Way Writings and Tape Recordings*, published by Mystics of the World.¹

Note: For the online tape group session for the chapter, "The New Horizon," we selected Tape 113, Side B, "The Secret of the Healing Principle."

- #12: 1952 Honolulu Class Series One
 - Side A: "The Thunder of Silence"
 - Side B: "Side One, continued"

- #46: 1953 First New York Practitioner Class
 - Side A: "Treatment and the Middle Path"
 - Side B: "Treatment with the IS"

- #60: 1954 Chicago Practitioner Class
 - Side A: "Nature of Error"
 - Side B: "Contemplation, Meditation"

- #94: 1954 Portland Practitioner Class
 - Side B: "Flesh and Flesh"

- #95: 1954 Portland Practitioner Class
 - Side A: "Flesh and Flesh, continued"
 - Side B: "The Word and Words"

- #113: 1955 Kailua Study Group
 - Side B: "The Secret of the Healing Principle"

- #128: 1955 Kailua Study Group
 - Side B: "Bear Witness to the Universal Nature of Illusory Error"

- #149: 1956 Second Steinway Hall Practitioner Class
 - Side B: "Summary of the Class on The Infinite Way"

- #152: 1956 Second Steinway Hall Closed Class
 - Side B: "God Realization Dissolves Material Sense"

- #169: 1956 Portland Open Class
 - Side B: "The Supreme Demonstration"

- #177: 1956 New York Laurelton Hotel Closed Class
 - Side A: "The Revelations"
 - Side B: "Meditations"

¹ www.mysticsoftheworld.com/

- #195: 1957 Second Halekou Closed Class
Side A: "The New Dimension"
Side B: "The Inner Universe"
- #211: 1958 Second Chicago Closed Class
Side A: "The World or My Kingdom, Law or Grace"
- #220: 1958 New York Closed Class
Side A: "Fabric of Nothingness"
- #233: 1958 London Advanced Class
Side A: "Freeing Ourselves from Universal Claims"
- #289: 1959 New York Closed Class
Side A: "The Infinite Way Principles of God—The Fabric of Being—Impersonalization and Nothingization"
Side B: "Side One, continued"
- #349: 1960 Second London Closed Class
Side A: "'This World' and 'My Kingdom'"
Side B: "The Middle Path"
- #418: 1961 London Open Class
Side A: "Rejecting Appearances and Concepts"
- #421: 1961 London Closed Class
Side A: "First Steps in Spiritual Healing"
Side B: "Second Steps in Spiritual Healing"
- #428: 1961 October Los Angeles Special Class
Side A: "Laying the Axe at the Root"
- #521: 1963 Kailua Private Class
Side A: "Incorporeal God, Man and Universe"
- #546: 1964 Oahu / Maui Series
Side A: "Between Two Worlds"
Side B: "Between Two Worlds—Material Sense, Spiritual Discernment"
- #547: 1964 Oahu / Maui Series
Side A: "Between Two Worlds—Personal Sense, Spiritual Being"
Side B: "Between Two Worlds—Material Sense, Spiritual Consciousness"
- #549: 1964 Oahu / Maui Series
Side B: "Between Two Worlds—Mystical Power"
- #551: 1963 Instructions for Teaching The Infinite Way
Side A: "The Simplicity of the Healing Truth"
Side B: "'My Kingdom' and 'This World'"