

Goldsmith Global

A Summary of Recording #92, Side 1, from the 1954 Northwest Series—Portland:
“The Practice of Truth”¹

Given by Joel S. Goldsmith

Everything that concerns you or me is an activity of God, and the responsibility for maintaining and sustaining us rests upon God. But we might say, “God doesn't seem to be doing a very good job with this world.” It isn't God who is failing. We are taking the responsibility from God and making ourselves personally responsible for things which should be left to the activity of God.

Truth must be studied, *practiced*, and lived, and someday those who indulge in just reading it or listening to it must make the transition from readers and listeners to actual practitioners of the Word. As Scripture says, “*Be a doer of the word.*”² Truth is a marvelous and interesting study, but truth only becomes tangible as outer harmonies in proportion as it is embodied in our consciousness and becomes an activity of our consciousness.

We tried an experiment once with our noonday meetings in Portland. Each day we took a scriptural passage and talked about it. Then everyone carried that passage into their experience during the day. They applied their understanding of the passage to whatever they saw and did. If they went into a store, instead of just doing business with people, they brought to *conscious* awareness the fact that they were doing business with the Christ of being. If they had work to do, they remembered that “*He performeth that which is given me to do.*”³ *He perfecteth that which concerneth me.*”⁴ They dropped the sense of personal responsibility and watched what happened when they let what we call “God” take over.

The results showed what could happen if an individual practiced that way for several months until the essence of those passages became active and conscious in their mind. Anyone can change the trend of their lives within a year or less by the study, *practice*, and living of spiritual truth—not by merely reading or hearing it, but by making it an active part of one's consciousness in daily experience until it becomes a habit of practice instead of just an occasional thought.

In *The Infinite Way*⁵ we are given a program to follow from morning to night. Upon waking, we recognize God as the activity of the day, the substance and law unto all that is to take place during the day, and the one power and presence that will be met during the day. Doing this fulfills the scriptures: “*Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.*”⁶ “*Lean not unto thine own understanding; acknowledge Him in all thy ways.*”⁷ “*Thou shalt have no other gods.*”⁸

¹ The complete transcript of this class is available at www.joelgoldsmith.com, or by calling 1-800-922-3195.

² James 1:22

³ Job 23:14

⁴ Psalm 138:8

⁵ Chapter 6, “Meditation”

⁶ Isaiah 26:3

⁷ Proverbs 3:5

⁸ Exodus 20:3

We all believe that we are obeying the first commandment and accepting God as the only power, but none of us is wholly obedient to that commandment. How can we obey it unless we establish within ourselves from the start of our day that we will not recognize any power other than God operating in our consciousness or in the consciousness of others?

Even though you agree that God is the only power, when you go out into the world, you may fear that some individual will have power over you or withhold good from you. That is putting power in "*man whose breath is in his nostril,*" and yet we are told "*wherein is he to be accounted of?*"¹ So we begin our morning with the realization that no one can give to us or withhold from us because God is the source of our good and the only power. If we even mildly entertain the belief that good can be given or withheld, we are not obeying the first commandment, and we are preventing ourselves from receiving our good.

To illustrate, you might believe that truth can come from me to you. That is not true. God is the source and the activity of all truth, and you are here to receive an experience of truth, but not from me—from God. My body and mind are being used as instruments through which that truth is reaching us, but I have no power to give you truth or to withhold it. As I hold myself in conscious union with God, truth flows through me from the Godhead to whomever is receptive and responsive. Unless you have some measure of spiritual agreement, you cannot receive that truth. So the responsibility is on you to open yourselves—not to me, but to God, to Truth itself.

This applies in your human experience, too. If you go to a banker for a loan and believe that he can give or withhold it, you may or may not get it. But if you hold in your consciousness that God is the source of your supply and at best, man can be an instrument for it to reach you, it will make no difference what any person does. Your supply will always come to you, and often before you need it. The blockage is the belief that someone can give or withhold it. If you are a salesperson, there is no better way to be a poor, underpaid one than to believe that your business depends on the good will of customers. But to understand God as the activity of all business will result in an abundance of sales every week, and often not from where you expect them.

This is a principle of life that does us good only in proportion as we make it a *conscious* activity of thought; that is, as we go out on our day with the realization that God is the activity, source, law, and substance of our supply, our business, our health, and all our relationships. God must be the central theme of our life, the source and avenue of our good. This has always been true, but those who benefit from it are only those who first know it, and then *practice* it. "*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,*"²—but you must know the truth. Not only must you know it, you must make it a *conscious* part of your living until it becomes automatic.

The booklet *Love and Gratitude* covers this point. Love makes us happy, and its absence makes us miserable. But, there is no absence of love. There is only an absence of the *experience* of love because of our ignorance. Humanly, we look to each other for love, cooperation, and friendship. That is a mistake. God is love, and God is the activity of love, and we should look only to God for love. Because God is infinite and universal, when we find our love in God, we find it in each other. If we look to each other for love, we may find love today and hate

¹ Isaiah 2:22

² John 8:32

tomorrow. But if we realize God as the source of love, we will find it in all whom we meet. Some will not respond this way, but they will drop out of our experience.

During the depression years, the great complaint was the lack of supply. But there never was a lack of supply. The earth was full of oil, diamonds, gold, and silver. The land was full of wheat, cotton, vegetables, and fruits. The air was full of birds; the hills were full of cattle; the oceans were full of fish. The only lack was in our ability to get some of that abundance.

There is no scarcity. So instead of praying for supply, or looking to jobs, dollars, the government, rich relatives, or benevolence for it, we must realize God as the activity, source and law of supply—as our sufficiency. When we look only to God, we may find manna falling from the sky or water coming from a rock, as Moses did. No one can miss abundance when they realize God, not man, as the source. You may say, "But I do recognize God as the source!" When do you? How often do you? How consistently do you? Is it just an occasional thought, while you still look to man whose breath is in his nostrils? Recognizing God as the source must be a *consistent, continuous* activity until consciousness is so imbued with it that you do not have to consciously think of it.

We must not merely read books on truth, attend classes, or hear recordings. Those are fine activities, but unless one *consciously* carries what is learned out into the world and *applies* it, those activities are not apt to produce lasting fruits. Now, you may say that is hard work. It is much harder work than you think! That is probably why the Master said, "*The way is straight and narrow and few there be that find it.*"¹

The multitudes were willing to watch the loaves and fishes be multiplied, but there were never multitudes multiplying loaves and fishes. It was too easy to watch someone else do it and benefit by it. In the end, the Master stopped feeding and healing the multitudes because he recognized that it was not getting anyone into the kingdom of heaven. Finally he said, "*If I go not away the Comforter will not come to you.*"² They would come out to sit at his feet and listen, but they would not go away and *practice*. We too can be fed and healed by practitioners and teachers, but if we do not rise in consciousness ourselves, we will lose our opportunity for freedom.

We desire freedom from lack, limitation, sin, disease, and death, but such freedom does not come without struggle any more than national freedom does. You know from history that national freedom is not easily achieved and is even more difficult to maintain. Those on the spiritual path also will tell you that it is hard work to achieve spiritual freedom from all forms of limitation, but they will also tell you that it is even more difficult to maintain. It is easy to succumb to the temptations of the world if one does not use every ounce of their awareness to maintain their spiritual integrity. So you might think, "If it is that hard, is it worth having?" Anyone who has been in slavery to an insufficiency of purse, strength, or health, or has struggled with false desires and appetites will say that it is certainly worthwhile to do anything for that freedom.

I said that we must be doers of the Word. Speaking, writing, or teaching truth should be accompanied by healing, because healing is the one evidence of the truth of a spiritual message.

¹ Matthew 7:14

² John 16:7

When the Master was asked, "*Art thou he that should come,*" his answer was, "*Go show John what things ye have seen. The sick are healed; the dead are raised.*"¹ So when you are asked, "Is the Infinite Way effective? Is it the truth?" there is only one answer, and it is not "Yes, I believe so." You must judge it by the healings that you witness, and if you are faithfully practicing it, you are demonstrating its truth by the healings that you achieve. Healing work has been a major activity of this message, not because changing sick people into well people is important, but because revealing a principle through which we can find our spiritual health in God is important.

Secret number one about the healing work is that it isn't the truth you know, learn, or read that does the work. It is the measure of Christ Consciousness that you attain. So we must practice these lessons to develop that consciousness. You learn the truth through reading, studying, and hearing. Then *practicing* it develops your consciousness of it in the same way that practicing music develops your musical consciousness. That developed spiritual consciousness is what does the work. Once you have attained some measure of spiritual consciousness, you study less and do more to maintain, live, and move in that consciousness.

How do we direct our study toward the attainment of spiritual consciousness? The material state of consciousness places hope, faith, and reliance in the outer world. For example, a materially-minded man says that taking a trip depends on having a certain number of dollars. The spiritually-minded man says the trip depends on the grace of God. You can't see, hear, taste, touch or smell the grace of God, so you must be spiritually-minded to place your faith and reliance on it. The materially-minded man says aspirin is good for a headache, but the spiritually-minded man says health is an activity of God, and the grace of God is the source of health. Here again, the spiritually-minded man turns to the Invisible and knows that the visible is but the outer effect of that which is invisible.

The Bible came from the consciousness of the sages and prophets who spoke or wrote the words. But if you live on just those words, you miss the opportunity for more words to come from the same Source. Words in the Bible only help you get into the Invisible, where the Source of them begins to flow through *you*. Living on an effect like words is living on a husk, but living in the realization of the invisible as the source of the visible is living on the substance of life. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. That doesn't mean just reading words in a book, but *hearing* the words that flow from the Invisible *within you*.

If you are looking to purchase something, the human belief is that if you go to enough stores, you will find it at the right price. That's the human way. The spiritual way is to realize that whatever it is, it isn't in a store. It is a gift of God within you, and that is why you desire to see it manifest. As you realize that it is already established within you in the invisible, you are led to it.

As a student of this work, never even go to the market for food without the realization that the real substance is within you; that you do not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Then when you do your marketing, you find that you save time and money because this spiritual realization has directed you. Before you undertake anything, turn to God, the source of it. The

¹ Matthew 11:3-5

source of anything and everything in this world is God, and to become spiritually-minded means to become reliant and dependent on the Infinite Invisible.

A practitioner or teacher is one who does not accept an appearance at face value but knows that the Invisible is the reality of all that exists and lets that truth dissolve the discordant appearance. In proportion as you recognize God as the one and only law, material law is nullified. So you develop a habit. Every time legal law, economic law, political law, or physical law comes to your attention, your thought goes to the truth that there is only one law, the law of God, and that law must be spiritual.

We may be confronted with pictures of diseased, aged, and dead life. But if God is life, we will have no other life than God—no young, old, weak, dead, or diseased life. These cannot be, if God is life. As thought becomes imbued with this truth of one life, the erroneous appearances of life begin to fade, and we are aware of the one, harmonious, perfect Life expressed as individual being. This has always been the truth, but few have availed themselves of it. We have accepted the appearances of birth, death, and aging. We have accepted that we each have a life of our own, and that isn't true. The only life we have is God, and as this truth becomes embodied in consciousness, we become aware of the vital, spiritual life within.

Spiritual awareness reveals that since there is only one God, there is only one life, one love, one substance, one law, one activity, one cause, and one effect. As this becomes embodied in consciousness, you become a spiritual healer. Anyone can develop spiritual consciousness, but the degree of spiritual consciousness depends entirely on what you put into it. You cannot get more spirituality out of your life than the effort you are willing to put into it.