

Goldsmith Global

A Summary of Recording #242, Side 1, from the 1958 Maui Open Class:
“The Temple”¹

Given by Joel S. Goldsmith

A teaching in a book is nothing but a philosophy of life unless that teaching is taken out of the pages of the book and put into practice. Throughout all ages, wonderful teachings have dried up and become books in libraries. The books may be read, but are quickly forgotten.

What is a temple? My answer is that everything that God made is a temple. You are a temple of God. Your body, your home, your business, art, or profession are temples of God. Your thoughts should be temples of God. If you looked upon all creation as temples of God, you would hold these temples in honor, respect, adoration, and love. So when your thought goes to your body, you would remember that your body is the temple of God, and you would look upon it and hold it that way in your thoughts, and you would lift it above the human concept of body.

The human concept of body is not well thought of. People abuse, desecrate, and disrespect their bodies, and the result is that their bodies give back to them sinful desires, diseases, and discomforts. But God made all that was made, and that which God did not make was not made. Therefore, if you have a body, it is the temple of God, and if you are not thinking of it as the temple of God, you are desecrating it.

In your own consciousness, you can lift your body above the human concept and realize, “This is the body the Lord hath made. This is the temple that God raised up for me as an instrument. I eat, walk, think, and live through this body. This body is given to me as an instrument through which to function during my stay on earth. When I am finished with this earthly temple, I will still have a body not made with hands. It will no longer be a human *concept* of body; it will be the body as body is, the spiritual temple of God.” But if you do not respect your body and keep it holy, no one else will. Your body is embraced in your own consciousness, and what it becomes in this world is determined by your treatment of it and your awareness of what it is.

Consider your home. Is it a house? Is it a place where a family lives? Not to me. To me, my home is *my* home, the home that God gave me. If I do not hold my home holy and watch my thoughts, attitude, and conduct in my home, who else will? I have to respect my home so highly that I do not allow anyone to bring carnal dirt into it, and I do that by maintaining in my consciousness the truth about my home.

*“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”*² Therefore, my home is the temple of God. When I hold my home in that respect and spiritual attitude, I have built a wall around it through which the carnal mind cannot enter, and that home is maintained in its spiritual integrity.

My work? It, too, is the temple of God. This work is really God’s work, which God has bestowed on me for a period of time. Therefore, my work is also a temple of the living God. If I

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

² Psalm 24:1

desecrate or dishonor it, or if I do not use this work as a blessing to mankind, then my work fails, because it is now a human concept instead of a divine creation. My work cannot fail as long as I understand that it is God's temple, given to me as an instrument.

Money? "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.*" Money is given to me for use—not abuse. Money itself is not evil; the *love* of money is the root of all evil, and the worship or fear of money comes about through false human concepts. But when money is understood as a temple of God, given to us for our use, money becomes noble, sacred, something we respect as a means of exchange, a means of using God's gifts.

All of these things sound beautiful and make for a wonderful piece of literature. But if that's all they are, it isn't worth even writing them down. These things are not meant to add beautiful literature or theories to the world. They are given to us to *put into practice*. Every truth in our Infinite Way literature is to be practiced, put into conscious expression. Otherwise it remains a philosophy in a book with no value to you, me, or the world. Let us be sure that we understand that everything that was created is a temple of God. Nothing belongs to you or me; everything is given to us by God for our use, for beauty, utility, or comfort. Once we have practiced a simple thing like that, we can go on to the greater things and realize that we must stop reading about them and begin practicing them.

We spoke about the subject of prayer. God is the infinite intelligence of this universe, and we are not equipped to advise God. We do not tell God what we desire, or when we would like it. We also understand that the nature of God is divine love, so we do not pray in a way that would indicate that God is withholding good and we have to ask for it. This rings true when you hear it or read it. But the question is, do you *consciously* remember this every time that you sit down to pray? When you pray or meditate, do you start by realizing that God is infinite intelligence and divine love and is not withholding anything, and that you are not coming to prayer to influence God? Do you recognize that God is closer to you than breathing? "*The place whereon I stand is holy ground.*"³ Where I am, God is. Any place that I am is holy ground because God is there.

Do you bring to mind that "*In thy presence is fullness of life,*"⁴ and that where I am, God is; where I am is fullness of life? I do not have to pray for fullness of life. The presence of God is the fullness of life, and since God is closer to me than breathing, I am in God's presence, and God's presence is right here where I am. "*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*"⁵ So right here where I am, liberty is, freedom is, fullness is—completeness, perfection. But what if my human eyes do not see it? What if I cannot feel it? That doesn't change the truth. The truth is that I and the Father are one. Therefore, where I am, God is. Whether I seem to be making my bed in hell or going through the valley of the shadow of death, where I am, God is.

When you start your prayer with these acknowledgments, you will not fall into the temptation of asking God for anything or expecting God to do anything that God isn't already doing. You will be preparing yourself for the next step: It is God's good pleasure to give to this whole universe the allness of everything. Then we can settle back in quietness and in confidence, listen for that

³ Exodus 3:5

⁴ Psalm 16:11

⁵ 2 Corinthians 3:17

still, small voice, and watch "the earth," or the error, melt. Then you are in the listening silence. It makes no difference if it lasts only fifteen seconds. Don't try to prolong it. Get up and go about your business, because you have performed all that is necessary for righteous prayer.

You have not tried to influence God. You have merely stated the truth of God's allness, God's presence, power, love, and grace, and then made yourself a vacuum for the Spirit of God to fill you. When the Spirit of the Lord God is upon you, It performs those things that are given you to do, but not as a human being. God isn't performing it for humans, and that is why there are failures in life. God is performing for those who open themselves to God-consciousness, let the Spirit of the Lord ordain them, and then do those things that are appointed for them to do.

By "failure," I do not mean the failure of a task, a mission, or a business. Those are not necessarily failures. There is no disgrace if you fail in your human job. That is part of the human life experience, and may just be a turning point in your life. Some of our greatest successes were bankruptcies before they became successes. When I talk of failure, I mean the failure of a life—when a person has gone through a lifetime and has not found their peace, wholeness, spiritual nature, happiness, or companionships. Often it is because they have sought their good completely on the human plane and left God out. When you learn that this universe is the temple of God, and when you make yourself a vacuum so that God may enter and sanctify this temple, you have a successful life. True success is measured by inner peace, contentment, and the degree of one's service to God and the welfare of man.

To put these principles of The Infinite Way into practice, you must realize the nature of God, so that you never attempt to reach God for some purpose, but constantly acknowledge the truth of God's presence and power and then *rest* in it. When you are in complete silence, it may last only for 15, 20, or 30 seconds. That's enough, but we must return to that practice many times during the day. We stop whatever we are doing for the recognition that "In thy presence is fullness of life, and wherever I am, Thy presence is." Or, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, and wherever I am, the Spirit of the Lord is, for I and the Father are one." Then we have that 15 seconds of silence. Every principle that you learn in the message of The Infinite Way has to be practiced in that way, or it is of no value.

The October *Letter*⁶, contains the secret about what causes error and how to overcome it. Any student familiar with my writings will instantly recognize those principles, but that is not enough. You have to work with them until you train yourself to look at the human scene and realize, "That's the carnal mind, illusion, and right where that is, the temple of God is." You have to practice until it becomes second nature not to take the good or the evil of this world too seriously. When you have seen through this carnal scene, you will find yourself living in heaven right here on earth—you will be in this world, but not of it.

These writings are not meant to be emotional. They are just presentations of truth that came through; principles to be put into practice. I have no emotion about my work because it isn't I who am doing it. It is a Presence that works through me, and I really have nothing to do with it, except that I am the instrument. This pen might just as well feel glad because a beautiful writing

⁶ *The Heart of Mysticism*, October 1958 Letter, "Break the Fetters that Bind You." This chapter is one of the eight most important chapters.

comes through it as for me to have an emotion, because I’m no more responsible for the healings that occur than this pen is responsible for what is written. God is putting these truths of The Infinite Way into human consciousness, and I can’t have any emotion about having a part in it.

Likewise, this teaching has nothing to do with you. You are but the temple of God, the instrument through which God is working, and if there is any glory to be had, let it be God’s glory. Try to understand this message of The Infinite Way with love, joy, and gratitude, but without emotion, because this is the working of God. You don’t emote because the sun comes up in the morning or because fruit is on the trees. You love and enjoy these things, but you don’t emote about them because they are natural things of God, not of you or of me.

So do not meditate to get emotional. Sometimes the Spirit is so strongly upon one that it brings tears to the eyes and feelings of elation, joy, gratitude and love, but that passes, and one settles down into calmness and peace. God’s grace is a normal and natural thing that fulfills itself as the harmonies, completeness, and perfection of our experience. We must learn to accept it and be thankful for it, and then go on about our business and live in this moment.

Working with the October *Letter* is an absolute must for our students. When you understand the October *Letter*, you will go back to the chapter, “New Horizon” in *The Infinite Way* and begin to understand it, too. It is the most important chapter in the writings. Second in importance to it is “Love Thy Neighbor” in *Practicing the Presence*.⁷ Perhaps third and fourth will be the 1958 September and October *Letters*, and we should also include that March 1955 *Letter*⁸ on protection. These monthly Letters are our working tools. Never neglect them. They have been my contact with the students, explaining the principles and how to live them and how to apply them. The books of Letters⁹ are our most valuable books. The principles are in the other books; but the working tools of how to use the principles and apply them are in the *Letters*. It rests with you to work with the principles and put them into practice, so that they fulfill themselves in you.

When you are not reaching out to God for something in the future, you are declaring IS. God *is* present where I am; God *is* the all-power and only power, divine intelligence and love. God *is* fulfilling Himself in my experience. IS is the greatest principle there is in life. “*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. The Lord is making me to lie down in green pastures.*”¹⁰ IS. All IS—IS. There is no future or past tense in God. The past can only return to this moment through memory, and only you can invoke that memory. If you do not invoke memory, you can wipe out the past and begin to live as if now is the only moment there is. You can’t live in the past; the past is gone. Life *is* now. Carry that as a principle into your meditations and ask yourself, “Am I thinking of anything of the past? Am I concerning myself about the future? Or am I abiding in the eternal now?” If you are living in the eternal *now*, you could not possibly have a worry, a fear or a care, because in the now, “*The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*”¹¹

⁷ “Love Thy Neighbor” is also one of the eight most important chapters.

⁸ The 1955 and 1958 Letters are in *The Heart of Mysticism*. The March 1955 Letter, “Protection” is also one of the eight most important chapters.

⁹ To find out which books are books of Letters, go to the SHOP page on www.acropolisbooks.com. Use the “Sort by” box at the top right of the page to select “Books of Infinite Way Letters.” The books of Letters will display, showing the year in which the Letters were published.

¹⁰ Psalm 23:1-2

¹¹ Revelation 19:6