

## **Optional Study Suggestions for Session 2: 1962 London Closed Class, “Temporal Power”**

### **1. Commentary on the Class Session**

#### *The “Pearl” in the Lesson*

Joel is so emphatic about the core message of this lesson that it would be hard to miss it. The pearl, the nugget, in the lesson is that **temporal power is not power in the realized presence of God.**

In other words, in the **realization** of God as constituting your being, God as incarnate in you, God as already present in you, temporal power is not power, and you must not fight it. The so-called powers that the world is fighting are not powers; they cause difficulty because they are accepted as powers.

Joel points out that an Infinite Way practitioner does not pray to God to overcome anything. He or she withdraws from the battle to overcome something, and in quiet contemplation, realizes the presence of God. The practitioner brings to **conscious** awareness the presence of God, the experience of God. Then in that Presence, which is Light, there is no darkness. The Light does not make the darkness disappear; the darkness is not an entity, not a thing. Darkness is the absence of Light. In the same way, sin, disease, and discord of any nature are not things; they are the **absence of God realized**. While it is true that God is omnipresence, that omnipresence is of no avail **until it is realized**.

#### *How Can We Prove the Unreal Nature of Temporal Power?*

How can we prove the unreal nature of temporal power, whether in the form of germs, infection, contagion, epidemics, weather, climate, food, accident, sins, or wars? Joel tells us how:

- Learn how to become still inside and know that “**I** in the midst of thee am God;” that “**I** in the midst of thee will never leave thee nor forsake thee;” that “**I** will be with thee unto the end of the world.”
- Learn to know that you do not seek your food, your clothing, or your housing from outside, nor do you even pray to God for it. Learn to be still and know that “**I** in the midst of thee am your bread and your wine and your water. **I** am your inspiration; **I** am your wisdom,” and that this **I** is the **I** at the center of your being, the presence of the Christ, the God-Presence, the Spirit of God that indwells you.
- Learn to know that Paul’s words are real: “I can do all things through Christ; I live yet not I; Christ liveth my life.” This Christ indwells you: “*The kingdom of God is within you.*” Stop seeking for God in heaven, in a church, or even in a book. You will not find

God in a book. The right book will tell you to seek God within yourself. It will remind you not to put your faith in the book but to let the book guide you to find the kingdom of God **within yourself**.

When you have realized that the Christ indwells you; that the kingdom of God is within you; then realize that **in that presence of God, consciously realized**, temporal power is not power.

Do not be satisfied with the metaphysical statement "evil is not real." It is a half-truth. The full truth is "**In Thy Presence** there is fulfillment; **Where the Spirit of the Lord is**, there is freedom." In other words, where the Spirit of God is **consciously realized**, evil is not power."

If you are fighting evil, you are not realizing your spiritual identity. The only way you can stop fighting evil is by realizing that **in the presence of God, consciously realized**, evil is a non-entity—not in the **statement** "God is omnipresent," but in the **conscious realization** of God-Presence.

Joel says that the function of our work in The Infinite Way is to bring us the ability to retire from the world at any moment, regardless of what we are doing with our minds or bodies, because the only place you retire from the world is within your consciousness. Do anything that you are called upon to do, but in your consciousness, retire from the world by realizing that **in the presence of the indwelling Spirit of God**, temporal power is not power. God is not a power that destroys temporal powers—God is the **only** power, and **where the presence of God is realized**, there are no other powers.

Retiring within has to be a **conscious** activity of your consciousness; it has to be a "praying without ceasing." We have to learn to be in the world but not of it. We have to be able to do anything that we are called upon to do with our hands, our body, or our mind, and yet realize, "**In Thy Presence** is fulfillment; **in Thy Presence** temporal power is not power; **in Thy Presence**, there are no other powers."

### *Joel's Recap*

Joel clearly recaps the point of this class session in this way:

*"This is the point I would like you to carry away and never forget: Do not think of God as going out to heal disease or be a power over other powers. Think of temporal powers as non-power **in the presence of this indwelling Christ**. In other words, give up the battle. ... We are not engaged in the battle of good and evil. No, we have withdrawn from the battle in the realization that **in the presence of God**, temporal power is not power."*

## **2) Find the Points of Practice**

As always, it is a good idea to review the recording and note any points of practice that Joel suggests. Some are given in the commentary above, but you will find others.

### 3) Meditation with Joel on the Non-Power of Temporal Power

Joel addresses this same topic—temporal power is not power—in another class session, in which he also leads the students in several beautiful meditations on this theme. This is recording **432B**, from the **1961 Canadian Special Class, titled “Non-Power—Meditation.”** It is the basis for Chapter 9, “Meditation on Non-Power,” in [\*Seek Ye First\*](#).

[Click/tap here](#) to listen to this recording. (*Please note that this recording has variable sound. You may have to adjust the volume as you go along.*)