

Optional Study Suggestions for the 1962 London Closed Class
Session 4: Recording 488B - “O, To Know Thee Aright”

What did Joel teach in this class?

Think for a moment about what goes on in Joel’s classes. First and foremost, Joel is consciously aware of the Christ in every individual who is participating. He is recognizing the truth of their being and lifting them in consciousness in the degree of their receptivity. That is important. Also, in most classes, Joel is giving instruction in the correct letter of truth according to the revelations that come to him from within, or he is giving instruction in a recommended practice.

Sometimes students come away from listening to a class, and they feel very uplifted, but if someone asks them what Joel taught in the class, they say, “Well, I don’t remember, but I FEEL so good!”

Feeling uplifted is fine as far as it goes. But Joel cautions us about focusing exclusively on the feeling and overlooking the content—the correct letter of truth or the instruction in practice. To be sure, Joel teaches very clearly that spiritual consciousness is not about what you know or understand intellectually, but about what you have consciously realized. Even so, he emphasizes that attaining a solid understanding of the correct letter of truth, engaging in meditation, and abiding with the practices build the foundation that ultimately enables us to have that conscious experience of truth, of the realized presence of God. In fact, often he tells students to listen to classes several times to catch the essence of what came through. Feelings of euphoria or uplift usually do not last, and if we have not taken the time to reflect on the “teaching” part of a class, we have missed an opportunity.

Do you recall the aspects of the correct letter of truth that Joel presented in this class? Here are ten questions that relate to the content. Can you answer them? If not, you might want to hear the recording again, listening for these key points.

1. What is our first goal in The Infinite Way?
2. What does Joel say is the best way for an Infinite Way student to attain this goal?
3. What is contemplative meditation?
4. What is the next step after a contemplative meditation stops?
5. What did Joel have to say about the role of motive on a spiritual path?
6. What did Joel say is the “supreme barrier” in meditation?

7. Joel says that the statement “Evil isn’t a power” is only a half-truth. What must be added to make the statement wholly true?
8. What does Joel mean when he says that God is not a power?
9. Joel says that we do not have to struggle or mentalize to reach God. Why?
10. How does Joel recommend that new students practice meditation?

Bible Verses Used in This Class

As we have said before, contemplating the Bible verses that Joel quotes in a class can be a very helpful study practice. These are the quotations that Joel references in this class:

- “The carnal mind ... is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” (Romans 8:7)
- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13)
- “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” (Galatians 2:20)
- “My Kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36)
- “Therefore, take no thought, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or, ‘What shall we drink?’ or, ‘Wherewithal shall we be clothed?’” (Matthew 6:31)
- “My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.” (John 14:27)
- “Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:10)
- “Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not?” (Mark 8:18)
- “I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging for bread.” (Psalm 37:25)
- “The place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” (Exodus 3:5)
- “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)