

“THE DAILY LESSON”

is an activity of the study group found at: www.iwso.org
It is a progression of excerpts from a transcript of a live class as it was recorded by Joel. It appears each day, together with the addition of corroborating scripture and inspired comments, to take into meditation and live with throughout your day.

Student’s note: There are words that are capitalized throughout this work. These words are used as if it were a synonym for, or as an activity of God. Also, the portions that are italicized are spontaneous meditations.

The subject of study for the month of JANUARY 2012 is:

19.

“THE PSALMS – OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD”

This tape is number 20 of 40 (aka: Tape 119 Side One)
1955 Kailua Study Group, Tape 10
By Joel S. Goldsmith

THE DAILY LESSON – January 1, 2012

“Good morning (*class responds.*) This little home here is really a temple, isn’t it? And the reason we find such peace and joy in being here together is because we have our freedom, our spiritual freedom. Inherently, I’m sure that all men want to be free. Unfortunately, education rarely teaches men to think. It presumes, rather, to give them something to think and then tries to hold them in the mold as if that which they were being given to think is ultimate truth. No man can give another ultimate truth. Truth is found within our self, and the way to achieve it is through individual experience.” ~Joel

Prov 3:5,6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

“TRUTH is within ourselves; it takes no rise
From outward things, whate’er you may believe.
There is an inmost center in us all,
Where truth abides in fullness; and around,
Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in,
This perfect, clear perception – which is truth.
A baffling and perverting carnal mesh
Binds it, and makes all error: and, to KNOW,
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendour may escape,

Than in effecting entry for a light
Supposed to be without.”
~Robert Browning

THE DAILY LESSON – January 2, 2012

“The orthodox sense of God and prayer was such that it brought people to prayer books, actually reading made-up prayers in prayer books, as if there were such a thing as going to God with rote and ritual, as going to God with somebody else’s idea of prayer and finding a personal relationship through that. But when the metaphysical concept of God and prayer was given to the world, it took us to another extreme. We somehow lost the idea of God in the terms of ‘principle,’ ‘law,’ ‘divine mind,’ as if God were something cold, or abstract, or so impersonal that it could just be defined with the word, ‘law’ or ‘principle,’ or ‘mind.’

Now, of course, there was nothing wrong about the original concept of God. The wrongness came in those who would put it into a mold for someone else to accept. Nor is there anything wrong about the terms, ‘divine mind,’ or ‘principle’ or ‘law’ for God, except in limiting God to those concepts or putting some interpretation on those words that would make it something mechanical. One of the errors that came out of this use of almost mechanical terms for God, mechanistic terms, was that it presented God as a servant. If God was a Principle we could use it, and pretty soon we had those very words, thoughts, and ideas being presented in metaphysical literature.

We *use* Principle. We *use* Truth even. We *use* Truth – Truth is God, but we *use* Truth. And eventually God came to be such a servant that it was only necessary for us to decide that we needed a new automobile and we found ways of telling that to God and, then, not only expecting God to produce it, but eventually we told God that we wanted it today – not tomorrow, today. Today is the only day and today is the day I want that car.” ~Joel

Mark 10:25-27

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

(We must silence the noise of desire, hope and ego and simply be beholders of His Omnipresence in our every activity. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 3, 2012

“Now these things have led us away from our freedom because our freedom lies not in accepting somebody’s concept of God or prayer but rather in being led back to the center of our own being where we can find God for ourselves since God is an individual experience. The God that Moses knew would never have satisfied Jesus Christ, and evidently the Father that Jesus knew didn’t satisfy Paul.

Now that would make it appear as if one of these might be right and another one wrong, as if Moses’ concept of God may not have been as good as that of the Master, Christ Jesus. Of course that isn’t true. Moses, with his concept and realization of God, did a miracle work for the Hebrew people. Very few people in the history of the world have been able to do for their people what Moses did for his with his idea of God, his individual contact with God, his own relationship with God.” ~Joel

John 7:24

24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

(Are you still seeking answers in this world? Are you satisfied with explanations that come from man? Or, are you seeking the Kingdom of God as taught by God? Seek ye first your relationship with God – and ye shall know the Truth by experience. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 4, 2012

“Well, all through the Hebrew scriptures we have Elijah and Elisha, Joel, David – we have all of these great Hebrew prophets with their individual realizations of the nature of God, their individual contact with God. One calls it ‘a still small voice.’ Now later we had the Master with his eternal ‘Father within,’ and we had Paul with his ‘I can do all things through Christ. I live; yet not I, Christ liveth my life.’ We have John, ‘God is love’ very simple: nothing complicated about it, and no instructions on how to pray. Just God is love.

Now then, we come together and we find a freedom in our companionship first of all because our relationship is based on meditation. That is why we can come together in such joy. We have no rules, no regulations for what to pray to or how to pray, but rather an instruction that we be still, that we be silent, that we learn to go within, ultimately without the benefit of either thought or words, just with that listening ear, and there commune with God. Now, as we unite whether individually in our homes or together here – in meditation – our contact is with the Father within. Whether you call it ‘the Father within’ or whether you call it ‘God,’ or whether you call it ‘divine mind,’ whatever name you give to God would be a concept of God that you are entertaining at that moment and it would be a right one. It would be a right one for you at that time.

A year from now you may laugh at yourself for entertaining, for having entertained, such a concept of God as you entertained this year. But then five years from now you may laugh at next year’s concept. Why? Because if you are meditating, if you are turning with an attentive ear to the withinness of your own being, you are being instructed. You are being instructed by God about God and about God’s children, and about God’s universe, and so your instruction will come by inner unfoldment and it will be progressive.” ~Joel

Rom 8:14

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

(I love you Father. I release my Soul to thy will. I let my life be your activity. I watch for your light to be a lamp unto my feet. In loving Oneness I am your steadfast servant and willing instrument... ..)

Resting now...as a beholder of Your Omnipresence and with an attentive ear. Your loving son, ~al.within)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 5, 2012

“Now. After we have gotten away from an old orthodox concept of a very personal God that punishes our every little mistake and should be rewarding our every good but seldom does, and we pass through the metaphysical stage of just declaring ‘God is divine mind,’ and that ‘God is divine law,’ and ‘God is Principle,’ we come to a third stage.

That is when we realize that in both cases we have been entertaining intellectual concepts of God, but we have not been experiencing God. We have not come face to face with God. We have not known God either as Moses knew him, as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew God or even as Jesus, John and Paul knew God. We have been knowing God after the fashion of someone who has been telling us what they believe about God instead of our individual experience.

Now in the beginning these mistakes come about innocently. I realize now I have been guilty of the same thing, and I hope I can undo whatever harm I may have done. In the June Letter I said that our only prayer should be ‘Thank you, Father; thank you, Father,’ and I have had some calls and letters saying that they will never again pray any other way than just, ‘Thank you, Father. Thank you, Father.’ (*laughter*)

And so you see I, too, have been guilty of misleading – although not by intention. I didn’t mean to say that ‘Thank you, Father’ is the only correct prayer in the world but rather that a sense of gratitude, a warmth toward God. would be an acceptable prayer, and I probably didn’t even mean the *only* prayer. I said it, but it was wrong. It isn’t the only prayer. There is no such thing as the only prayer, and neither can we express gratitude only by declaring, ‘Thank you, Father. Thank you, Father.’

So you see just by letting my own feelings of the moment flow out, somebody accepts that as a pattern – not only one somebody but several some-bodies have accepted that as a pattern. Well, you see, that’s wrong. Even to say that only gratitude is prayer is wrong because gratitude isn’t

the highest form of prayer. Gratitude is merely an emotion, a feeling that comes to us in prayer. It isn't prayer. Gratitude isn't prayer. Gratitude really is a form or expression that takes place in prayer." ~Joel

Matt 6:5-8

5 ¶ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

(Prayer based in the mind or intellect is the same as a vain repetition (having faith in a material concept). If the Father is All-knowing as the Christ teaches, what is the purpose of all that much speaking? Be still, think not, listen and behold. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 6, 2012

“Prayer, itself, is in the three stages of first, our communicating with God, second, in a communion with God, and then third, in a union or oneness with God. And although there have been hundreds of people in the history of religious literature who have actually attained union with God, conscious union with God – some once during their lifetime, others at will throughout their lifetime – nevertheless, the words in which those communions took place or unions would be meaningless to us if we tried to duplicate them. A basic idea is, of course, a truth.” ~Joel

John 10:30

30 I and my Father are one. ~Christ Jesus

(This form of prayer is all about the degrees of the realization of Omnipresence. If God Is - then we are included. (I AM) Do you see now why nothing of his world can be included in prayer? ~AI)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 7, 2012

“I’m reminded at this very moment of the fact that in The Infinite Way writings when we are asked the question of ‘why is this sin, or disease, or negative condition present in my experience or in the experience of the world?’: The answer is a sense of separation has brought that about, a sense of separation between individual beings – you and me – and the infinite source of our being. And this sense of separation separates us from our good. This separation from our good appears externally as sin – forms of sin – forms of disease, forms of lack and limitation, forms of hate, envy, jealousy – but regardless of what form they appear in, the basic error is always a sense of separation from God.” ~Joel

Rom 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(It’s impossible to be separated from the Love and Principal of God, but we can “think” ourselves into being separate or in need of Love, or supply.

Whenever we entertain the thought that we, of our own selves are doing the work, we are plugging into human ego with all of its issues - good and bad...

When we unplug the ego and know that it is never us, but always God that does all work AS us, that we are included in the splendid harmony of Oneness. The Lord is our Shepherd, our infinitely tireless caregiver, and we can never lack for anything. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 8, 2012

“Now the overcoming of these evils of human existence would naturally lie in attaining the realization of our oneness with God, attaining the realization of our union with God. All right there we have two basic principles, but the manner of working them out in individual experience becomes yours and mine. It doesn't become mine to outline for you. It becomes yours to work out within yourself. If something within you says, 'Yes, I know right well that I'm entertaining a sense of separation from God because most of the time I have no feeling of God's presence. I have no awareness of it. As a matter of fact, most of the time I feel as if I were cast off out in the world all alone and as if there were no God, and so I realize there is a sense of separation there.'

And so you go about the business of finding how to get back to the Father's house. Here is the prodigal you and me and we're out in the world having every kind of an experience which, in some cases, 'ultimates' in that banquet with the swine when we realize that 'hey, even my Father's servants are better off than I am.' And then comes the struggle to find our way back to the Father's house.” ~Joel

Rev 21:6,7 (to ;)

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things;

(Ironically, in the story of the Prodigal's son, both sons had the same experience. Both the good son and the sinful son felt that they were alone and somehow not equally included in their father's estate. But both always had equal and unconditional access to the real Truth of their being. The Father's Love is always and forever, and comes with this Divine Assurance: "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 9, 2012

“No one can chart a path for another. One person will find their way back to the Father’s house through a very ritualistic form of religion or church worship. Another person will find their way back through an individual inner communion. And still others may be better attuned to the more mental ideas of thinking one’s way back. There’s nothing wrong about any of these ways. The wrongness is in outlining the words, the phraseology, or the manner of prayer – whether you shall sit upright or in the lotus position, or whether you shall begin with this phrase or that phrase. Therein lies the error.

Now. God Itself is an experience, but It is an individual experience. It is something like birth and death. You have to do them for your self. No one can be born for you and no one can die for you, and no one can experience God for you. You can have help on all of those three experiences, but you, yourself, must experience God.

Now, your nature and your background differs from every other individual in the world just as much as your fingerprints do. And so the particular experience that will lead you into the throne room, right up to the realization of God face to face, is an individual one and do not let yourself be deceived by anyone’s experience into believing that you must follow their pattern.”

~Joel

John 1:3,4

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

(You are one of these “all things” made by Him. Be still and listen for the manufacturer’s directions... and follow them... exactly. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 10, 2012

“Now, in my own experience, my experience with God is a very strange one. It’s a very frequent one, but it’s a very strange one because of my own particular background. I have a deep love for God, but also I have some kind of a traveling salesman’s sense of humor that gets mixed up with that love. And sometimes I talk to God in a way that some of you might not approve of because it is not an unusual thing for me to say, ‘See here God, let’s get together on this or I’m going to quit. You can have back all of your heaven and your earth and your hell, but I’m going my own way. Either we get to understand each other better or it’s just going to be no dice.’ (*Class laughs*). And I don’t know that God objects to that very much because it usually ends up by a very warm inner feeling, and I get the impression that God is smiling. I really do. I get the impression that there’s a God just having its chuckle back there and saying, ‘You’re a tough fellow to handle, but that eventually you do come home.’ (*Joel and class laugh*)

Well now, at other times I don’t feel that way at all. At other times, I have a mellowness inside that I can’t describe. It, it is just a feeling that is beyond description and I can sit with it for a few minutes, and probably John was right when he said, ‘God is love’ probably that is the feeling that I have, but there are no words with it. There are no thoughts with it. It is just that. It’s a mellowness, it’s a ...it’s well, it’s inexplicable, that’s all.

But then there are other times when I go to God very seriously and talk things out and then wait for an answer. Now I’m sure that a lot of people in metaphysics would ridicule me for that and say, ‘well there is no such God.’ Well, I, I don’t believe there is either. But I do know that I entertain such a concept of God that it seems to require that I sort of talk things out a little bit. And it may be very much in the way that when patients come to me and I let them talk things out, and I don’t listen. But I know how much good it does them for them to get it out of their system, and so I let them talk. But they probably don’t realize that I haven’t heard it, and inside I’m smiling as much to say, ‘Well, what has all this got to do with ‘I and the Father being one’? Do you see?

And so it is I'm sure that the Father is busy with his big family and not too much concerned with what I'm saying, but giving me the opportunity to get it off my chest. And then in that way an answer comes back. And so it is that yesterday, yesterday we had this unfoldment here of the Christ, and I

would no more be able to recapture the essence of that hour than I could recapture an hour that has gone by. But it showed you one sense of my individual relationship with God. It gave you an opportunity to see what takes place within my consciousness insofar as it concerns my relationship with God and the Christ. You could see at least one way in which this subject of God and Christ appears to me." ~Joel

I Cor 12:4-7

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

(Love's purpose is not to expand or raise consciousness, or make you better somehow – Love's purpose is to Love. It will give you what you need without condition, when you need it and in a way you can feel it, embrace it and reflect it out into the world. Rest now, and allow yourself to be Loved.

~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 11, 2012

“Well, this morning my thought went to our good friend, David. David, you know, has given us probably one of the highest forms of prayer (if you can put prayer in a form) that the world has ever known in the 23rd Psalm because, in this 23rd Psalm we have, as you know, the heading, ‘David’s confidence in God’s Grace.’ This, you see, is prayer in itself. If, if ah, David, David had done nothing more than to put this heading and then forget the rest of the prayer, it would have been all right too because he encompassed everything in that sentence: ‘David’s confidence in God’s Grace.’

If you and I ever attain a confidence in God’s Grace, we will have no further use for prayer in any form. We will have no further use for any of the words that go to make up prayer or religious literature because our inner awareness or confidence in God’s Grace will be the prayer, the communion, and eventually the union itself. However, for our purpose, we can take this confidence in God’s Grace and sort of put it in words, and see how a confidence in God’s Grace would establish itself in words within us. And then we find, ‘the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.’ And, of course, there immediately you have that feeling of his confidence in God’s Grace: ‘Since the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.’” ~Joel

Prov 3:5

5 ¶ Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

(Father, I sit here in quiet meditation, waiting for the recognition of Your Presence within...

I know that I can do nothing without You...

If I speak of myself, I bear witness to a lie, as I am merely the instrument for Your activity...

I trust Thy will to be done, in, and through and as me...

My heart is open and receptive for Thy Word, Thy Love, Thy Truth to be felt and sung aloud in my consciousness...

*Take my life and my hands for Thy purpose, for You already have my heart...
Your loving son and grateful servant, ~al.within)*

THE DAILY LESSON – January 12, 2012

“Now you would imagine that after that 23rd Psalm that David never would return to old forms of prayer and old fears, but not so, not so. David had to live every hour of every day in this world, and he had to meet with every form of belief that we meet with in our experience. He met all of the enemies. Even after he had the assurance of God’s Grace, he still had to meet Goliath. He still had to meet all of the things that he tells us about in his Psalms.

And so I’ve just made note of the first few of these to show you how many ways there are, even for a David who has the assurance of God’s Grace, how many ways there are for him to wander away from a pure metaphysical treatment or prayer; how he can become human in his fears, and doubts, and hesitations, and appeals to God – even though always he ends up back in communion with God and eventually in union with God.”
~Joel

Ps 23:4 (to ;)

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

(The more we entertain the shadows of this world, and let the shadows entertain us, the more real they seem, and the harder they are to turn off. The belief of every lack, even the lack of life, cannot exist in the Presence of God. We end up back home, when we realize there is no place to go to find God. The quest for the Holy Grail ends with finding it within. God’s Presence is not something to obtain – it is something to Realize... ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 13, 2012

“He starts out in [*Psalm*] Number 1,

‘Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.’

You might think there that he was just making an affirmation, but he isn’t. In this very first verse he is stating a fact. This is not an affirmation that is meant to get something from God. He is stating a fact that that man is blessed who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. Ah, in the second (*verse*) he says,

‘But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night.’

Now, if this were literally true, prayer would have but one form, and that form would be meditating in God’s law day and night. But it isn’t really the only form, but it is one of the best. As long as we have need of contemplation of any mental practice, as long as we have any need of thought or words in our work, it is, there is probably no better way than to meditate day and night in the thought of God’s law.

You know, we do that very often right here in our work. We have whole periods when we are just contemplating God, God’s love for His own creation, God’s law, the laws that govern spiritual universe, and so forth, because the contemplation (or as he calls it ‘meditation’) but the contemplation of God and the laws of God help us to attain that assurance which later comes in God’s Grace.” ~Joel

Matt 5:8

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
(Dedicated Spiritual Practice brings Truth into focus. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 14, 2012

“You cannot attain an assurance in God’s Grace merely by having someone tell you that you should have assurance in God’s Grace or that an assurance in God’s Grace is a wonderful prayer. That won’t do it. But you can attain the assurance of God’s Grace through meditating on God’s law, through contemplating God’s law.

Just to sit out in a garden and contemplate the fact of coconuts growing on coconut trees and oranges growing on orange trees and the sun and the moon and the stars flowing in their orderly fashion after some law of God! Watching the tides, noting how season after season the seas are restocked with fish and the air restocked with birds. Noting how the trees in their season bring forth fruit. This is a contemplation of God’s laws expressed in what we call natural law.

The very contemplation of two times two being four, the very contemplation of the laws of automotive engineering or aerodynamics – any of this contemplation of natural law is really a contemplation of the law of God which much underlie all so-called natural law. And the longer you meditate on God’s laws, the greater becomes your assurance that God’s Grace it is that perpetuates and maintains these laws throughout an eternity. And the first thing you know, you find a confidence developing within yourself in the fact that there is a God, that a God operates through law, that God maintains and sustains that law. And sometimes you’ll notice that there are sick trees that, as you are watching them, become well again. They heal up their scars and their ills.” ~Joel

John 8:31,32

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

(Be ye steadfast – in stillness, but actively attentive and expectant.....
Be silent – but singing. Be constant and dedicated in the Practice. Watch

with me. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 15, 2012

“You will be noticing animals in your neighborhood, and you’ll observe that they too have periods of illness but, in some miraculous way, they become well again, and you’ll soon find out that God – through some invisible and inscrutable law – is maintaining the harmony of God’s own universe. And where, through our ignorance of God’s law, there seems to be an ill, God’s law establishes and re-establishes the original harmony. And so you see that contemplating God’s law is a form of prayer and no one, no one, has the right to tell you what form of contemplation or meditation is normal or natural to you.

I can give you these illustrations which have proven wonderful in my own experience, but whether or not you respond to a contemplation of these natural laws or not, I have no way of knowing. But you have the right to take that principle of contemplation or meditation and let it mold itself into your individual experience.

Ah, but while you’re doing this, you’ll discover a great truth. You are not admitting ‘man, whose breath is in his nostril’ into your thinking at all. You are not even thinking about Moses or Jesus Christ or John. All you are doing is contemplating God and the laws of God, and thereby you are fulfilling the great wisdom of all the masters: ‘Acknowledge him in all thy ways.’ Or ‘acquaint now thy self with God.’

Well you see if you were to use the statement, ‘Acquaint now thy self with God,’ or ‘acknowledge him in all thy ways,’ as some kind of a miracle-working statement, or, prayer or mantra, you would be far afield from the true sense of prayer. Because the true sense of prayer has nothing to do with the statement, ‘acquaint now thy self with God.’ It has to do with ‘acquainting now thy self with God’ in whatever way you can do it.” ~Joel

Prov 3:6

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(Prayer is the experience of taking no thought of your own self, and witnessing God direct your Life... His Life experienced. In the experience of Love, loving, there can be no lack. ~Al

THE DAILY LESSON – January 16, 2012

“Now. To you must come the idea, ‘oh, I must acquaint myself with God.’ Yes, yes, now that you say that I remember the Master said ‘to know him aright is life eternal.’ ‘Oh well, shall I use that statement now as an affirmation: ‘to know him aright is life...?’” No, no forget that statement. There is a great wisdom in that statement, ‘to know him aright is life eternal.’ Now forget the statement and see how you will get to know him aright.

Well, of course, at first there is a puzzlement, huh? Yes because how shall we, who are uninstructed, how shall we get to know God aright? And there becomes your first battle with yourself because it is within yourself that you have to decide how you are going to come to know God aright.

And for my own self in those early days, the way was to say, ‘God, look here: How do I get to know you? How do we get to know each other? How does this all come about? As a matter of fact, I’m starting out with the fact that I don’t even know if there be a God. Oh I know that it says so, and I’m supposed to believe in it, but just between you and me, how can I believe in a God? Look at this world. If this is the kind of a mess that you are responsible for, how can I believe in you?’ I had no hesitancy in starting out that way. I have no hesitancy in talking to God that way.

First of all, is there a God? How do I know there is a God? I have no evidence of it, and I have no inner conviction of it. Now how do I get to know It? And there begins a struggle, but that struggle leads each one ultimately to find some piece of literature or some teacher, or some teaching that can put them on the right track toward finding God. And each one who has that inner urge to find God, will find God.” ~Joel

Mark 2:1-12

1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was

no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

(Well... You can reason your heart, down a ten thousand paths – or you can pick up your bed and walk right into thine house. Neither path is right or wrong, because God is with you on every path. The Shepherd Loves you just the same... ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 17, 2012

“Now, perhaps it is true that our troubles and our problems require solution and perhaps that’s why we have developed this interest in God – not so much in God but in finding a solution for our problems that the doctors and ministers couldn’t solve for us. And so now we’re going to find a God to solve them, but sooner or later the realization comes that isn’t the answer. It isn’t the answer spending all my time trying to solve problems. I have got to become acquainted with God and discover that because or in and through that relationship there are no more problems. But this thing of eternally getting rid of problems – even if we found a good way to do it – would still leave us with more problems tomorrow to be gotten rid of through the same wonderful way that we had discovered.

Now, David, then, first gives us the fact that the righteous man, the good man, delights in the law of the Lord and he delights to meditate day and night in the law. And then he tells us what happens to the man who delights to contemplate God and the things of God.

‘And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.’

Now you see, he has really given us a formula that isn’t a formula. He has given us a principle. The principle is that if we contemplate, meditate on the law of God day and night, everything we do shall prosper. We shall be like ‘a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth its fruit in His season.’

Now you notice there that he hasn’t given us a form of meditation – how to meditate, what to meditate, merely meditate, contemplate the laws of God. And, of course, the laws are as infinite as God Itself, and so we can pick on any law, or on a hundred laws, and contemplate them and find that we do not have to handle our problem.” ~Joel

I Thess 5:17

17 Pray without ceasing.

(As you experience a Principle of God – it is, at that time, opened out to the world by you and through you. That Principle is expressed as you. God is infinite, with infinite laws and possibilities, so the work is endless. ~AI)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 18, 2012

“We do not have to handle lack and limitation. We do not have to handle false appetites, or sins or diseases. We have nothing to do with that. All we have to do is meditate day and night on, and in, the laws of God, and then that contemplation or meditation itself results in the disappearance of our problems and the establishment of our good. The ‘ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.’

Now do you remember that in all of our work we have discovered this very principle, and scripture has revealed to us the why and the how of it? If you take, for instance, the first verse of the 91st Psalm, ‘he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High’ – you find that all of the evils of the world do not come nigh your dwelling place. Now he hasn’t given us a formula for getting rid of our problems. He has given us, if you like, a principle of harmony, and the principle of harmony is ‘dwell in the secret place of the most High and you will have none of the problems of the world to overcome.’” ~Joel

THE DAILY LESSON – January 19, 2012

“Do you see again how prayer is a meditation, a contemplation, a dwelling in the ideas of God? He doesn’t even tell us that we must use Moses’ idea of God as *I AM*. Nor does he say that we must use Elijah’s ‘still small voice.’ Nor does he tell us that we must use Jesus’ idea of the ‘Father within,’ or Paul’s’ idea of ‘I can do all things through Christ.’ No, he merely tells us a principle. The principle is ‘dwell in the secret place of the most High.’ Dwell in God. Meditate on the laws of God; that is all. And then in that we not only find the solution to any immediate problems but we find that there is no recurrence of problems because they ‘do not come nigh our dwelling place.’” ~Joel

Ps 91:1

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Ps 91:9,10

9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

*(Father, I surrender the living on my own life and the thinking my own thoughts. I know that there is no separate You and me. I live yet not I, Christ liveth in me and does the work. You are my supply, my refuge, my good, my health, my dwelling place, my sufficiency and My Life.
~al.within)*

THE DAILY LESSON – January 20, 2012

“Well you remember that we discovered in the 15th chapter of John this same principle given to us in a different way. ‘I am the vine, you are the branches;’ God is the Source. And he tells us as long as you ‘abide in this word,’ (it’s the very same thing as David said here in the First Psalm.) as long as you abide in this word, ‘God,’ as long as you let the contemplation or meditation of God be established in you, you are then one with God, and you ‘shall bear fruit richly.’ This man David says that you shall be ‘like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season,’ ‘his leaf also shall not wither,’ “whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.’

Fifteenth chapter of John we learn that if you ‘abide in this word and let this word abide in you,’ then you shall bring forth fruit richly because it is ‘your Father’s good pleasure’ that you prosper and bring forth richly. Ah, but he also tells us about the ungodly and he tells us who the ungodly are: if you do not abide in this word, if you do not let me abide in you – this contemplation of God. If you do not let this contemplation or meditation of God abide in you, then you are cut off and you are like ‘a branch of a tree that is cut off and it withereth,’ and you don’t bear fruit.

And again, you see, he says nothing now about whether or not our contemplation of God should be as the Father or of divine mind, or of divine love or of the Christ. That is something for each of us in accord with our own natures to find within our selves. And when we do that we will find that God is infinite, so infinite that today we will be worshipping God in one way, tomorrow in another.” ~Joel

John 15:1-5

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

(If I am the vine, then I am the branches too.....)

If ye are the branches, then we are all individual expressions of the One Vine.....)

If God is Omnipresent, then how can I be someplace else?.....~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 21, 2012

“Today we will be worshipping a God ‘closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet,’ and tomorrow we’ll be worshipping God by bawling him out and saying, ‘where are you? Hidden behind a cloud somewhere where I can’t reach you? Now come on out from there and let’s get closer together.’ And that will also be a form of contemplation or meditation.

How can we expect a traveling salesman to worship in the same way that people are brought up as ministers of the church do? You can’t do it. Their heart is the same; their love is the same, but the form of expression must be individual. It must be personal. And so God must become an individual experience to us and it must become personal to us – yet the principle, whether it is enunciated by David or whether it is enunciated by Jesus is exactly the same principle, but the manner of expressing it is different.”

~Joel

Ps 147:5

5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

(We are (God is) capable of blessing Infinitely in an Infinite number of ways. ~Al)

Ps 91:11

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

(Seek ye first the Kingdom of God – and every step on the path will have great purpose. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 22, 2012

“Now. David has no hesitation at all in saying that ‘he that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh.’ The Lord shall have them in derision – speaking of the ungodly and those who do not worship God. He even has God sitting in heaven and laughing, too. I do too. I feel that in here sometimes. That he’s laughing at all of the problems that are giving us troubles and saying, ‘I don’t really believe you’d find those problems existing outside of your own mind. And so, instead of worshipping your mind and thinking that your mind is God and that it’s a power, why don’t you laugh a little bit at that mind of yours that is encompassing such stupidity?’” ~Joel

Cor 3:19 (to .)

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

(And the following is why: ~Al)

I Cor 2:11

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

(Explaining, arguing and reasoning are thoughts of man. There is no way to figure out God with your mind. So take no thought...be still...and dwell within. The Spirit of God is discerned in Spiritual consciousness. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 23, 2012

“Oh yes, you see the mind originally was given to us as an instrument. We are not the mind. We are the Soul. And just as we are not the body – the body is an instrument for our physical functioning on earth – the mind is an instrument given to us – an instrument of awareness. You see, there is an I, Joel. There is an I, Joel who recognizes coconut trees. Through what faculty do I recognize a coconut tree? Through the faculty of the mind. Therefore, the mind is an instrument of Joel’s through which Joel knows coconut trees. Through the faculty of the mind Joel can think things out, can reason things out, can become aware of things that are in the world because his mind is given to him as an instrument of awareness. If I were to worship my mind, or think that my mind creates coconut trees, I would end up where I deserve to end up. If I were to believe that my mind can create my world, I would end up where many right thinkers end up.

Now, my mind is not a creative agency. God is a creative agency, and only God is a creative agency. But the mind is given to us so that we may become aware of the laws of God, that we may meditate day and night and learn the laws of God.” ~Joel

I Cor 2:12-13 (to;)

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;

(God is Spirit. We must surrender the thought of man whose breath is in his nostrils to transcend the mind and allow the breath of Spirit function as the mind. In doing so, the mind is opened up as an avenue of awareness to feel the Presence of the infinite Source of Creation. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 24, 2012

“Henry Ford, nor Marconi, nor Thomas Edison, nor any of those men were ever actually inventors of anything. They were discoverers. That which they discovered had existed forever. They were laws of God, and these men learned – whether or not through a religious sense, makes no difference – they learned to meditate day and night on the laws of God. They contemplated laws of God, became aware of laws of God, and then through the instrument of mind and body, they eventually brought them forth in a practical form for us to use.” ~Joel

John 15:5 He (to 2nd :)

5 ...He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:

(The Source of Being is within each of us, forever waiting to be revealed in infinite abundance. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 25, 2012

“Now. Had..well, of course, those particular men were religious men. In particular, Mr. Edison was so religious that he had the honor of being known by the church as an atheist. The same as George Bernard Shaw, one of the most godly men who have ever walked on earth, also achieved the distinction of being branded an atheist by the church. Why? Because those men knew God and loved God, and through that they understood the sense of humility which acknowledges only God can make a tree, only God can produce the laws by which we achieve an electric light. Only God can bring forth – even Marconi was branded because he wouldn’t attend the church regularly and so forth and so on, and yet Marconi knew in his heart and soul that he was dealing with laws of God that he became aware of, and was able thereby to come into harmony with and make use of.

Now, always the deepest sense of humility comes to the individual who knows that he cannot create anything, and that his mind cannot create anything but that only the love of God can create. God is love and that love of God – which has resulted in this magnificent universe with all of its laws – that God is a creative principle, but God has endowed us with a mind and a body. And with the combination of mind and body, we can utilize every law of God.” ~Joel

John 5:30,31

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

(Father... I know I can do nothing without you. I have no separate function of mind or being. Your OmniPresence includes the entire universe of which I am included. I love and trust Your Love to embrace me and animate my Life. I turn my life over to Spiritual Law and its realization. My feet rest upon Holy ground, because they rest upon You... You are my Shepherd and I am your sheep. I am merely a channel or instrument through which

*Consciousness pours It's Love..... Speak Lord, thy servant
heareth... ~al.within)*

THE DAILY LESSON – January 26, 2012

“Unfortunately, where there is an absence of moral sense, there is a wrong utilization of these laws. You see, the laws of electricity have blessed this world abundantly, but there are still men who use it to electrocute other men. Do you see that? There is a lack of moral sense there. That lack of moral sense is gradually being overcome, and you can see that in the many states that are trying to pass laws to do away with capital punishment because a moral sense permits you to use these modern inventions, but not misuse them or abuse them.

It was only a lack of moral sense that brought forth an atomic bomb. Atomic energy is destined to be one of the greatest blessings ever given to man – probably greater even than electricity itself. But because it was introduced into an age where there was such a lack of moral sense, it was first given to man in a destructive form. And man, through the development of his moral sense, will merely have to find that atomic energy is a law of God. If it's a law of God, it should not be misused; it should be used. Contemplating the law of God day and night will bring forth atomic energy as a useful thing.” ~Joel

Mark 13:33-37

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

(When Jesus' work was nearly done on earth, he gave us this work to do that Mark wrote down for us. It would probably be a good idea to take another look at it, take it within and get on with it... Watch and behold my friends, Christ Consciousness comes in Its perfect time, and with it It's

perfect Blessings. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 27, 2012

“It was a strange thing in this picture, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, ah, that toward the end of the picture this man says that this instrument that he has discovered must be destroyed because of the wrong use that he has made of it. But that, in its own time, in God’s time, he says, it will come forth to bless mankind. But he was wrong because when it did come forth, it came forth as a submarine, as an instrument of destruction. But he’s right in that in God’s own time the contemplation of those laws that brought forth a submarine will show us a submarine devoted to the ideas of peace and abundance.

We will be sending things rapidly under the seas in calm just as we are transporting things 30,000 feet in the air, above the storm areas of the air, so we will be transporting them below the storm areas of the sea. And so again, the contemplation of the laws of God will enable us not to create, to become aware.” ~Joel

Luke 9:28-32

28 ¶ And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

(When we are “awake”, as Peter, James & John were on that mountaintop, [aware of the Truth AND Living in it] all things are possible, and at that moment, we are included in the infinite activity of the Christ. We will discover our sufficiency for the work of the day and stand on, and participate in, that Holy Ground. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 28, 2012

“Now this leads up to one of the great, great principles of prayer that is enunciated in the message of The Infinite Way. Prayer should not be creative. You should not use your prayers to create good conditions and good things for yourself. Prayer should be an instrument through which you become aware of God’s blessings already given you by Grace of God.”

~Joel

Matt 6:7,8

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

(Could Divine Love know that you have a need and then keep it from you? That sounds insane doesn't it? You know better than that... God already Is and all that God is I am. Prayer is an opportunity to open an avenue of awareness that God's grace already is my sufficiency. Be still and know that I, in the midst of thee, am God and I will never leave thee or withhold from thee. OmniPresence Is and all doubts are foolishness. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 29, 2012

“Don’t try to create a healthy body for yourself. You’d be interfering with God’s function. God does not give His praise to graven images. God does not give His powers to man. God maintains His own powers Himself, and man is the instrument through which or as which God functions on earth. Don’t try to usurp God’s place in heaven or on earth or in hell. Do not try – I believe it is said that that is the reason Moses was kept out of the Promised Land was because he tried to usurp a prerogative of God. He tried to make water come forth out of a rock.

You can’t make water come out of a rock. You can’t do it. You can’t make gold in the fish’s mouth. You cannot multiply loaves and fishes. God has never given you that power. That is God’s power, but you can be a *witness* to God’s power and behold the glory of God in action. And prayer then, as contemplation and meditation, leads to a state of awareness, a beholding. You find this in The Infinite Way: Be a beholder.” ~Joel

Gal 2:20 nevertheless (to 2nd :)

20...nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:

(Be still and know it... God is the essence of all Life. ~AI)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 30, 2012

“Now. You can’t heal patients. You’d be taking God’s place on earth if you could go around healing people. But you can bear witness to God’s law in action, and you can do that by learning that to make prayer a meditation, a contemplation of God’s laws.” ~Joel

John 5:30

30 I can of mine own self do nothing:

Ps 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

(Be in the practice today... Surrender your-self to Spirit. Rest in and accept the fact that you live in a Spiritual universe that is governed by Spiritual law. Step a little to one side and watch God do all the work today as there is only One Consciousness, One Mind, One Self and One Body to do the work. ~Al)

THE DAILY LESSON – January 31, 2012

“Don’t try to use God’s laws and don’t try to invent God’s laws or create God’s laws, but sit peacefully and quietly and LET God’s laws present themselves to your awareness and you merely contemplate them as you would sit here.

You know when I first came out to this property those coconuts that you see at the back here were just two feet high, and that’s only a few months ago. And I suppose there are some people who are foolish enough to believe that ‘Oh yes, I suppose Joel just sits there and prays and makes them grow.’ (*Laughter*) Why, no, no, no, no. Joel has no control over those coconut trees. Joel just sits here in amazement day after day watching God at work in those trees. It, it is an amazing thing to see them from two feet high to twelve or fifteen feet high in a few months. It’s really almost an impossibility, but to say that I have power to make that come true, would be a violation of everything we know about God.

But the ability to contemplate, to see God’s Law in action—really prevents the world’s belief of interference with God’s Law, from operating. Thank you and Aloha.” ~Joel

Job 22:21

21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

(There cannot be a life separate or apart from God, once we come to the awareness His Infinite Presence. Abide with me in the One Law, One Source and One Truth. ~Al)