THE DAILY LESSON - NOVEMBER 16, 2013

Chapter - “Putting on Immortality”

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word was made flesh.’

‘The Word was made flesh’ -- but it still is the Word. By being made flesh it does not change its nature, character, or substance. Cause becomes visible as effect, but the essence or substance is still the Word, Spirit or Consciousness.

In this wise, do we understand that there is not a spiritual universe and a material world, but rather that what appears as our world is the Word made flesh, Spirit made visible, or Consciousness expressed as idea.” ~Joel

John 1:1
1  In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (to 2nd ,)
14  And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
(The Word is not a static concept or principle to be understood in the mind, it is an actual Activity of God. It is Love appearing As [dwelling among us]. Think of a light beam from a flashlight shining into a mist or fog. You can see the actual column of light as it appears to be static and the mist appears to be moving. The column of light is instantly “made flesh” when it is switched on and instantly absent when switched off. Actually, what we don’t see, because of its great speed, is the light particles as they flow forth and stream from the flashlight. The light itself is an Activity, doing work in your presence. It is illuminating and warming its surroundings as it travels by.

God’s Light is the Activity of Christ as it illuminates our consciousness.

The Word made flesh shows up as an Activity of healing, supply, illumination, gratitude, consciousness and even as a good Samaritan or Loving person [Instrument] with the solution we need today. It might appear as loaves and fishes if that is what we need. The Word appears As these things, right here, right now, where we can make use of it. It is the Principle of Love, in the act of Loving. ~Al)
“All the error that has existed down the ages is founded on the theory or belief of two worlds, one the heavenly kingdom, or spiritual life, and the other a material world or mortal existence, each separate from the other.

In spite of this sense of two worlds, men have always attempted to bring harmony into the discords of human existence through an attempt, by prayer, to contact this other world, or spiritual realm, and to bring Spirit, or God, to act upon the so-called material existence.

Let us begin with the understanding that our world is not an erroneous one, but rather that the universe in which we live is the realm of reality about which man entertains a false concept. The work of bringing health and harmony into our experience is not, then, getting rid of, or even changing, a mortal material universe, but correcting the finite concept of our existence.”

~Joel

John 6:27 (to 2nd ,)
27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life,

(There is only one sin and only one error, they are both the same, and that is to believe that we are somehow separate from God. We work so hard to make things right in this world, while completely ignoring God - instead of asking God first and then following His direction…

Be still, and surrender with the attitude of, “speak Lord, thy servant heareth”. ~Al)
"The seeker of Truth begins his search with a problem -- perhaps with many problems. The first years of his search are devoted to overcoming discords and healing disease through prayer to some higher Power or the application of spiritual laws or truth to these mortal conditions. The day arrives, however, when he perhaps discovers that the application of truth to human problems either does not 'work' or does not work as it once did, or else he finds there is now less of satisfaction and inspiration in his study. Eventually, he is led to the great revelation that mortals put on immortality only as mortality disappears -- they do not add immortal spiritual harmony to human conditions. God does not create, nor does He control material affairs. 'But the natural [human] man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.'

Are we seeking 'the things of the Spirit of God' for some human purpose, or are we really endeavoring to 'put off' the mortal in order that we may behold the harmony of the spiritual realm? " ~Joel

I Cor 2:14
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Matt 6:31-33
31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(There is only one demonstration to make, and that is the Presence of God. Realize God and you are included in His Kingdom - the Source and Supply of all Being. ~Al)
“While we strive and struggle and contend with the so-called powers of this world, combating sickness and sin or lack, spiritual sense reveals that ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ Only as we transcend the desire to improve our humanhood do we understand this vital statement. When, however, we leave the realm of human betterment, we catch the first glimpse of the meaning of ‘I have overcome the world.’

We have not overcome the world while we are seeking to have less of the world's pains and more of the world's pleasures and profits. And if we are not overcoming the sense of struggle over worldly affairs, we are not entering the realm of heavenly affairs.” ~Joel

Zech 4:6 Not
6 …Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

(Human thinking is not spiritual. Spiritual Sense is consciousness without effort [physical or mental] to attain. The Spiritual Realm has neither beliefs nor conditions - It is simply the activity of Divine Grace. Rest… Watch… Rejoice. ~Al)
THE DAILY LESSON - NOVEMBER 20, 2013

‘For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.’ Spiritual consciousness overcomes the world -- both the pains and pleasures of the world. We cannot accomplish this evangelization of humanhood by mental might or physical power, but by the spiritual sense of existence which all may cultivate through devotion of thought to the things of the Spirit. ‘For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.’ Here is the guide. Watch your thoughts, aims, and ambitions for just a short while and see if your mind is on your health, the pleasures of senses, or worldly gain. Then as these worldly thoughts appear, learn to reject them because now we are no longer set on the path of improving our human affairs, but on attaining the spiritual kingdom.

‘Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.’ Does this sound as if we were becoming ascetic? Do we appear now to be desiring a life apart from the normal, joyous, successful walks of life? Do not be deceived. Only those who have learned to keep their attention on spiritual things have tasted the full joys of home, companionship, and successful enterprise. Only those who have in a measure become centered in God have found safety, security, and peace right in the midst of a war torn world. Spiritual sense does not remove us from our normal surroundings, nor does it deprive us of the love and companionship so necessary to a full life. It merely places it on a higher level where it is no longer at the mercy of chance or change or loss, and where the spiritual value of the so-called human scene is made manifest.” ~Joel

Isa 26:3
3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(Staying our Consciousness on God has nothing to do with life, effort and sacrifices in this-world. We rise above human thoughts and activities to where the Activity of the Presence reveals Itself. ~Al)
“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life. . . . For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.’

When confronted with any human problem, instead of laboring for an improved human condition, turn from the picture and realize the presence of the divine Spirit in you. This Spirit dissolves the human seeming and reveals spiritual harmony, though to sight this harmony will appear as improved human health or wealth. When Jesus fed the multitude, it was his spiritual consciousness of abundance that appeared as loaves and fishes. When he healed the sick, it was his feeling of the divine Presence that appeared as health, strength, and harmony.

This may all be summed up in Paul's words: ‘Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.’” ~Joel

Col 3:1,2
1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Turn ye, from the sense of finite. Look up! ~Al)
“We are living in a spiritual universe, but the finite sense has set a picture before us of limitation. While thought is on the picture before us - ‘this world’ -- we are engaged in the constant effort to improve or change it. As soon as we lift our vision -- take thought off what we shall eat and drink and wear -- we begin to behold spiritual reality which appears to us as improved beliefs, but which really is more-appearing of reality. This more-appearing reality brings with it joys untold here and now, pleasures beyond our wildest imagination and the love of all with whom we come in contact, even the love of those who do not know the source of the new life we have discovered.” ~Joel

Matt 6:25
25  Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

(Yes, the human drama appears convincing, but it is not Reality. Our Real Nourishment and Supply comes from a Divine Source, focus on that. ~Al)
“Peace I leave with, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you.’

‘Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God. . . . Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. . . . But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’

How often do we go on the rocks on this point! How frequently do we attempt to understand spiritual wisdom with our human intellect! This leads to mental indigestion because we are attempting to digest spiritual food with our educated mentality. It will not work. Truth is not a reasoning process; therefore, it must be spiritually discerned. Truth does not as a rule appeal to our reason, and when it appears to do so, we must search deeply to see if it really is truth. Be suspicious of a truth that seems reasonable.”

~Joel

(The following story is set on the road to Emmaus immediately following Jesus’ “dead” body “gone missing” from the sepulcher.)

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.
14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.
15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned [they reasoned with the experience and intelligence of this-world], Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.
16 But their eyes were holden [held to the logical possibilities of material law] that they should not know him.
17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?
18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?
19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:
20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

(As long as we are “holden” on material law and reason with the human mind - we will never recognize the Presence of Christ “walking” with us here today.

The nature of God is: Omnipresence, Omniscience and Omnipotence. The nature of error is: a bunch of pictures, noisy thoughts and assumptions that always ends up to be nothing. So how is nothing going to understand Everything? ~Al)
Jesus, walking on the water, feeding the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes, healing the sick and raising the dead--does all this seem reasonable to you? If the principle underlying these experiences could be understood through reason, all the churches would be teaching it as a present possibility and they would recommend its practice. But this principle is apparent only to spiritual sense, and this cultivated spiritual consciousness can do the things that the Christ has ever done. What was possible to Christ-consciousness in Jesus’ time is possible to the same Consciousness now.

We now are engaged in the cultivation of that spiritual sense and we shall succeed in proportion as we relax our mental struggle and become receptive to those things which the Spirit of God teaches. Instead of trying to make Spirit operate upon our human bodies and material affairs, let us learn to disregard these mortal pictures and keep our vision on things above. When we ‘come down to earth again,’ we shall find the discords and limitations of sense disappearing and more of reality appearing.” ~Joel

John 14:12 (to 2nd ;)
12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;

(Do you think Jesus would have said something so clear as this and not expected it to be possible? I really think these were orders - not just expectations. We are to do God’s work and do it well… God’s Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. ~Al)
"The kingdom of God does not consist of more and better matter, nor does it necessarily include a greater vocabulary of truth. Yet the fruitage of spiritual understanding is greater harmony, peace, prosperity, joy, and more ideal companionships and relationships.

‘For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe’--understand.

To receive the word of God or spiritual sense, we need to feel rather than reason. This is referred to biblically as receiving the word ‘in the heart.’ Note here that the development of spiritual consciousness results in a greater gift of feeling the harmony of being. We understand that neither seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, nor smelling will reveal spiritual truth or its harmonies to us; therefore, it must come through a different faculty, the intuitive faculty which acts through feeling. Heretofore, we have sat down to pray or to meditate and immediately a stream of words and thought started to flow. Perhaps we began to affirm truth and deny error. You can see that this is wholly in the realm of the human mind.” ~Joel

I Thess 2:13
13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

II Cor 3:3
3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone [material law], but in fleshy tables of the heart.

(Knowing the Truth is not something we can do, we must Let the still small Voice proclaim Itself. ~Al)
“In cultivating our spiritual sense we become receptive to thoughts which come to us from within. We become hearers of the Word rather than speakers. We become so attuned to Spirit that we feel the divine harmony of being; we feel the actual presence of God. Having transcended the five physical senses, our intuitive faculty is alert, receptive and responsive to the things of the Spirit, and we begin our new existence as a result of this spiritual rebirth.

Heretofore, we have been concerned with the letter of truth, now only with the spirit of truth. We are not so concerned now with what is truth as with feeling truth. This is accomplished in proportion as we give less thought to the letter and more receptivity to the feel. This word ‘feel’ incidentally, refers also to the awareness, consciousness, or a sense of truth. We are not now speaking truth but receiving truth, and that which we receive in silence we may speak from the housetops with authority.” ~Joel

II Cor 3:3-6 (to :)
3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.
4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:
5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;
6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit:

John 4:23,24
23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

(Rest now, and open the avenue of Awareness that transcends the mind and lifts us into God Consciousness. ~Al)
THE DAILY LESSON - NOVEMBER 27, 2013

“Spiritual healing is the natural result of a divinely illumined consciousness. We are illumined only as we are receptive and responsive to spiritual illumination.

We misunderstand immortality when we think of it as the immortality of the human personality, or personal sense. Death does not produce immortality or end personal sense, nor does the continuation of human existence mean the attainment of immortality.

Immortality is attained in proportion as personal sense is overcome, whether here or hereafter. As we put off the personal ego and attain the consciousness of our real Self--the Reality of us, divine Consciousness--we attain immortality. And that can be achieved here and now.” ~Joel

John 8:14,15
14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true; for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye [man] cannot tell whence I [Christ Consciousness] come, and whither I [Spirit] go.
15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

John 8:23
23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath [thinking with the knowledge of good and evil]; I am from above: ye [man] are of this world; I am not of this world.

(The entire 8th chapter of John is about the immortality of man and how man misunderstands this Principle. It’s not about a journey of a man - it never was… Take a look at it again with Spiritual consciousness. [Don’t judge with reasoning thought - judge with righteous judgment]

Why does man make such a big deal out of a misunderstanding? He was taught to. Stop… Be still and let the Christ teach you the Truth. ~Al)
“The desire to perpetuate our false sense of body and wealth ensnares us into death, or mortality.

The first step in the attainment of immortality is living out from the center of our being, as in the idea of unfoldment from within, rather than accretion: It is the giving sense rather than getting; being rather than attaining. In this consciousness, there is no condemnation, judgment, hatred, or fear, but rather a continuous feeling of love and forgiveness.” ~Joel

Luke 17:21
21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

“Truth is within ourselves.
There is an inmost center in us all,
Where the Truth abides in fullness; and to know
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendor may escape
Than in effecting entry for a light
Supposed to be without.”
~ Robert Browning

(There is nowhere to go. There is only to Be. ~Al)
“It is not a simple matter to show forth the joy and peace of immortality, because to those intent on preserving their present concepts of being, immortality would appear to be extinction. This is not the case: It is the eternal preservation of all that is real, fine, noble, harmonious, gracious, unselfish, and peaceful. It is reality brought to light in place of the illusion of sense. It is the conscious awareness of the infinity of individual being replacing the finite sense of existence.

Selfishness and conceit fall away in the realization of the divinity of our being.

This realization brings forth patience and forbearance with those still struggling in mortal, material consciousness. It is being in the world but not of it.” ~Joel

John 14:17,18
17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

(Behold, the promise…

Let the ego and its agenda go my friends.
Dwell with Me now, in the secret place of the most high. ~Al)