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Introduction

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

The Joel Goldsmith

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The excerpts on the following pages were generated in this way and have been prepared to assist you in your study of Joel Goldsmith's message. We hope that you will also find it helpful as a model for creating your own study guides and reading lists with the Electronic Search Tool.

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In Chapter 10 of *The Contemplative Life*, Joel recommended eight specific chapters in the writings that all serious students of The Infinite Way should study intently and know well. He says: “In order to build a consciousness of truth, all Infinite Way students should know the following passages as well as they know their own names.” Later he said that these chapters are of paramount importance to the serious student because they contain the answers to almost every individual problem that can be brought to the student, including family relations, illness, and supply.

This guide features one of these eight important chapters. Please note: the key passages we have selected are simply cues to inspire your own study, which may take you deeper, and in new directions.

Joel's Eight Important Chapters

- *The Infinite Way*, Chapter 11 – “The New Horizon”
- *The Heart of Mysticism: Vol. V*, Chapter 10 – “Break the Fetters that Bind You”
- *The Heart of Mysticism: Vol. II*, Chapter 3 – “Protection”
- *The Contemplative Life*, Chapter 8 – “Contemplation Develops the Beholder”
- *The Art of Spiritual Healing*, Chapter 11 – “The Relationship of Oneness”
- *Practicing the Presence*, Introduction
- *Practicing the Presence*, Chapter 5 – “Love Thy Neighbor”
- *Living the Infinite Way*, Chapter 4 – “God is One”

“INTRODUCTION”

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

Highlights*

... No one is going to pick up this book and read it unless it is someone who has already known quiet moments of inner reflection, someone who has been plagued by frustration, lack of success, or lack of harmony, and who has pondered long and seriously why life should be so unsatisfactory. Because this was my experience and because that experience led to the writing of this book, only those who have had a similar experience and have been goaded by that same unfathomable question will be interested in reading further to discover what I have found and how it has benefited me.

... In one of these experiences, while I cannot say that I heard a voice, I do know that I received an impression that was something like an inner being saying to me, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.”

Pp ix

... Now I saw that the principle of life, the secret of all successful living, was making God a part of my very consciousness, something which Paul describes as praying without ceasing.

Pp x

*This Selected Study Guide highlights selected passages from one of the eight important chapters followed by related excerpts from Joel’s books and transcripts.

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... The reason you are reading this book is because you are being irresistibly drawn to God. There is a compulsion within you to find the missing factor in your life, that which will restore to you your original state of harmony, joy, and peace.

... and be assured of this, that from now on your mind will turn again and again to God, until one day, whether sooner or later, it will be made evident to you that your life will only be complete when it is lived in God and has God living in it.

Pp xi

... This book is not meant to take you out of any church where, at the present time, you may be enjoying the association of those on your particular religious path, nor is it meant to put you into any church in which you may not already be worshipping. Its purpose is to reveal the kingdom of God—where it is and how to achieve it.

Pp xii

... God *is*; of that you may be sure. This is only true in your experience, however, in the degree in which you contemplate, meditate, and keep your mind stayed on God, living, moving, and having your being in the conscious realization that God will never leave you nor forsake you.

... Every person who has known dissatisfaction, incompleteness, and frustration will someday learn that there is only one missing link in his entire chain of harmonious living. That is the practice of the presence of God—consciously, daily and hourly, abiding in some great spiritual truth of scripture, and it makes no difference which scripture: Christian, Hebrew, Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, or Moslem.

Pp xiii

... This truth has been my passport and has been the open sesame to freedom and joy in all countries, for wherever I have traveled, I have consciously remembered that God is the Father, the creative principle, the life of all with whom I come in contact.

... After the years that I have spent in this work, I can say to you that the inner meat, the inner water, the inner wine, and the bread of life—all these are brought into tangible experience through inner communion and in no other way.

Pp xiv

... You can only feed the tree of life from within, not from without.

... Always remember: The Spirit of God is within you, but it is only the few today who seem capable of spending hours with spiritual literature, and more hours in inner communion—only the few.

... The message of this book is not a personal message. It is an age-old wisdom that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word remembered in consciousness, by every word and thought of God held within us. By this we live.

Pp xv

... I have learned, and so I endeavor to pass on to you: Keep the Word of God alive in your mind, in your thought, and in your experience, and you will never know lack or limitation. Keep consciously before you the truth that no man on earth is your father—there is only one Father, the creative Principle of all mankind—and you will never know anything but love from the men and women of this world.

... The world's troubles in these past generations have driven men to seek that which will restore the lost years of the locusts, that which will establish peace on earth and good will to men. I have found it—and in this book, you will find it.

Pp xvi

**Related passages for further study,
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Search: “no one is going to”

From: The 1960 Denver Closed Class

... There is yet one main factor that only the Spirit will bring, or will rather produce in our lives, the harmony that we want. No one is ever going to be wholly well until they find themselves home in God. No one is going to be wholly satisfied, even with good economic conditions, until they have been able to find an inner communion with God.

314A 1960 Denver Closed Class
“Protective Work”

Search: “you come to a place”

From: *Consciousness Transformed*

... When you come to The Infinite Way you come to a place where you give up power, where you give up seeking one power with which to destroy another power. You give up

seeking God-power. You come to a state of consciousness in which you realize, “Because of God, there are no other powers,” and you learn to “Rest in this word.”

Consciousness Transformed, June 16, 1963
“I – That is All”

From: *The Contemplative Life*

... Spiritual illumination begins with the realization of as simple a thing as that the whole kingdom of God is already established within you, and for you to enjoy its blessings you have to find a way to bring it forth into expression.

As you meditate and ponder on these things, you come to a place where there is nothing more to think about. You have thought it all; you have said it all; you have declared or affirmed it, and you have come to the end of all that. Now, since there is not anything more to say, you come to a place where you are still, and you find that in the very moment that you achieve stillness, something jumps up here from within you—something of a transcendental nature, something of a not human nature. Something jumps up into your awareness that you yourself have not been declaring, affirming, or stating, but which you are now hearing and receiving from the depths of your withinness. You yourself have created the circumstance by means of which this transcendental hearing can take place: you have known the truth, declared it, felt it, stated it, and then been still, thereby creating a vacuum, and now up into that, the Voice announces Itself, bringing with It illumination.

The Contemplative Life, Chapter 3
“Beginning the Contemplative Life”

Search “others are led”

From: *Consciousness Transformed*

...God's grace cannot be limited to an individual. This passage is therefore given to us: “The vine consumeth not its own grapes.” In other words, we are the vine through which this message comes. It blesses us, but its major blessing is that others are led to us and then it becomes a universal truth which blesses the entire universe.

Consciousness Transformed, April 26, 1964
“Access to Infinity”

Search “quiet moments of”

From: *Our Spiritual Resources*

... In other words, the substance of everything necessary to your experience is already within your own being and ready to unfold naturally as it becomes necessary to you, because the completeness and perfection of your life is already established within you as essence or substance and it appears outwardly as form. Your part is to learn to sit in your quiet moments of meditation, realizing this completeness and understanding that the only barrier to the expression of perfection is the belief in two powers, which constitutes the carnal mind, but which must be recognized as no power since there is only one power, God. Relax in the awareness that within you is the fulfillment of life, and with this recognition the flow begins.

Our Spiritual Resources, Chapter 3
“The Practicality of Spiritual Living”

Search “being drawn”

From: *Conscious Union With God*

... In other words, every day of the week, you will find those people, circumstances, and places attracted to you that you could not get along without, nor they without you. You will find yourself drawn to those places where you can be of the greatest service and at just the right moment. You are tuned in on an infinite spiritual telephone system, and it is Central that is sending out and making the contacts for you. You do not make them; Central sends out and makes them for you. When you are living this life, you always find that this Central Office, God, the inner Consciousness of you, is really the dominating influence in your life. There is no thought of wanting or deserving anything. In fact, you do not take thought for anything; you just follow the leadings that are given you and you contact those individuals who are necessary to your fulfillment.

That is really the first step in spiritual living. You have taken the first step in being brought to the reading of this book. From here on, you will find people being drawn to you, and you being drawn to others. You will find yourself being brought to places, and places drawing you to them. You will say, “That is just the thing I would have loved to have—if I had thought about it.” But it is always something greater than you could have thought about for yourself.

Conscious Union With God, Chapter 10
“The Mission of the Messiah”

From: The 1956 Chicago Private Class for “25”

... You are being drawn by an inner light that is within yourself, and it is drawing you to the light that can light the light that is within yourself. That is all that takes place.

162B 1956 Chicago Private Class for “25”
“Essentials for Infinite Way Workers”

Search “you are seeking”

From: *The Journey Back to the Father’s House*

...In what way do you seek the kingdom of God? First of all, it is necessary to find out where this kingdom is that you are seeking. The Master gave the answer to that, too. “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” Then how shall you seek this kingdom that is within you? Be still. In quietness and in confidence. Not by might or by power. You cannot take heaven by storm.

The kingdom of God that you are searching for is within you, and the God that you are seeking is in the “still small voice.” “He uttered his voice, the earth melted.” Now you have the entire secret of the spiritual life. It remains only for you to demonstrate and experience it.

The Journey Back to the Father’s House, Chapter 4
“The Temple”

Search “I have chosen you”

From: *The 1950 First Portland Series*

... You have not chosen Me; I have chosen you. We think, as we turn to this work that we are choosing God; that we are turning to God. That something within us is reaching out to God. Never believe it for a moment. It isn’t true. If you accept such a belief, you may find yourself struggling for a long, long time to find God. Once you realize that it wasn’t you that turned to God, but God that turned you to Himself, you can then relax and realize no doubt about the result, no question about the ultimate answer since it was God Itself that brought Itself to you and brought you to It and is bringing you to the realization of It.

5A 1950 First Portland Series
“Atmosphere of God”

Search “our search”

From: *The Heart of Mysticism, Volume V*

... Most of us come to the study of spiritual wisdom because of some problem—physical, mental, moral, financial, or even something which may not fall into any of these categories. One of the most difficult of all problems, because it is so intangible and therefore so frustrating, is a sense of incompleteness; but this very sense of incompleteness is what forces us into a seeking for truth and spurs us on in our search for God.

The Heart of Mysticism, Volume V, Chapter 2
“Problems Aren’t Problems Anymore”

From: *Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture*

... We may come to the study of metaphysics or the Bible to gain better health; or we may come to the search for God to increase our wealth or business activity, but in the last analysis that is not what is going to happen to us. True, this increased sense of spiritual good will produce better humanhood, increase our ease in matter, and even prolong our human sense of existence a few years, but this is not the object of our study. The object of our search for Truth is to gain a spiritual sense of existence that we may live perfectly and eternally.

Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture, Chapter 12
“Infinite Individual Consciousness”

Search “this is my way”

From The 1962 London Closed Class

... Do not think for a moment, that everyone is going to derive the same measure of benefit from any and every teaching. In other words, there are people who take naturally to this mystical teaching, and that is their path. Then it is up to them, once they determine that, to give it the utmost devotion that they have. For others this may not be their path. That is why I am so very happy that we have never been led to organize, because I do not want anybody held in membership; I want everybody to feel free.

If this is not your message, keep on searching and seeking until you find it. Do not think because somebody else has had a beautiful healing that it means it is your message. Do not think because someone else has benefited that you will. No! We each have our teacher or our teaching, something to which we respond. Until we find it we must keep searching. When we find it, something within us says, “this is my way.” After that, abandon all others, and give ourselves wholeheartedly to the one.

Then we discover as time marches on, that we have arrived, because something from the beginning has been building us to the point where Saul of Tarsus dies and St. Paul is born.

490A 1962 London Closed Class

“Putting Off the Old Man and Rebirth

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