

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

THE ELECTRONIC SEARCH TOOL

FOR

The Government of Eden

CHAPTER I

“Governed by God or
Governed by Man?”

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The Joel Goldsmith
BOOKSTORE and READING ROOM

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The excerpts on the following pages were generated in this way and have been prepared for your enjoyment and 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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General themes for *The Government of Eden*
Chapter One
“Governed by God or Governed by Man?”

Listed below are just a few suggested search topics. Each search result will be displayed in the context of its original text or talk; those search results, alone, provide an excellent overview of any subject from which you then can explore at a deeper level.

General themes in Chapter One:

Citizenry; Citizenship
Freedom, Government, Meditation
Spiritual work; Spiritual freedom; Spiritual government

Search suggestions:

(For specific citations add quotation marks around phrase.)

citizen/s	“man-governed”
citizenship	“our freedom”
“day to day”	“our government”
election/s	“our nation”
epidemic/s	“political freedom”
“fear of”	“spiritual responsibility”
“freedom is”	“spiritual government”
“freedom is not”	“ten righteous men”
“free you”	“this nation”
“God-governed”	voting
“Government under God”	

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From *Consciousness Transformed*:

The history you are reading about in the newspapers is just the product of the karmic influences, good and bad, of past generations. The history in the making is what is happening to the world everywhere as a freeing nature, such as we are now witnessing on a small scale. People in the world are not aware of what is taking place now, but people ten or twenty or thirty years from now will be reading of these events in their history books.

Try to envision this “canvas” of life, so that you do not measure your spiritual life by what it is doing to you and yours, and for you and yours alone. Rather, see how the measure of spiritual freedom you attain is the measure of spiritual freedom that you are giving back to the world—hastening the day of its freedom. As guests of life we are really temporary visitors to earth. It is not given to us to own anything here, because we can take nothing with us when we go except the spiritual treasures we have laid up. Remember that every spiritual treasure that we will carry into the next plane of existence is a spiritual treasure which we leave behind. It is not finite—it is omnipresence itself. Once you have acquired the realization of a spiritual truth, it is yours throughout all eternity, but it is one which will remain behind in the consciousness of mankind to multiply itself. This is spiritual law.

Consciousness Transformed
May 1963 – “We Are Guests of Life”

From *Living by Grace*:

Any human government is subject to change, because there is a coming and going of humans in high office and there is a coming and going of voters. Therefore, human government can be good or bad. That is all that can be expected of human government. Therefore, we must turn to Scripture, which tells us, “The government shall be on God’s shoulder.” Not on the Republican or Democratic or socialist or communist shoulder, but on His shoulder.

The function of The Infinite Way is to reveal to you the spiritual nature of your being so that your life is governed by your own state of spiritual consciousness and not by persons or conditions external to you. The degree of harmony that comes into your experience is proportionate to the degree of your own spiritual development. no one can bring about for you a demonstration greater than your own attained state of consciousness.

Living by Grace

Chapter 8, “Message to Teachers on the Spiritual Path”

...

The three following excerpts of Joel’s recorded classwork relating to elections and spiritual government appeared in the “tape recorded excerpt” section of *Spiritual Discernment*, chapter 10.*

Tape Recorded Excerpts **

Prepared by the Editor

One of the responsibilities every citizen must accept is exercising his franchise to vote. This should not be based on individual prejudices or inherited party affiliations, but on carefully examining the qualifications of a candidate. However, then The Infinite Way student must take another step and that is to turn within in meditation for further light and guidance with the attitude: “Father, show me whom Thou hast chosen.”

Accepting the Responsibilities of Citizenship

"You and I, as citizens of a country, must fulfill our obligations as citizens.... If the ignorance of our governmental leaders should get us into wars, as that same ignorance has done in every previous war, then also as citizens, we have functions to perform. We have to 'render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.' We can't run and hide our head and say, 'I will not fulfill my duty as a citizen, but I'll let you, my neighbor, go out and do it for me.' No, in whatever way is necessary, we are called upon to accept our responsibilities as citizens....

"Even while we are rendering 'unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's,'... we can be about our special business of prayer, of bringing the realization of the kingdom of God to earth through our consciousness. We can be helping to settle the affairs of the world, not by might and not by power, but by the spirit of God, so that... we can be a bigger power than the man who built the atomic bomb. ...

"None of us has any idea who may be reached by the Christ and... be in a position behind the affairs of the world where his influence can throw the situation to the side of spiritual power. It is for this reason that even if we comment on the qualities of this one, that one, or the other one, we do not in the same breath condemn, for it may be that very one who may have the awakening. ...

"It is not a person who is going to save the world. It is not a person who is going to come forth with an idea. It is the Christ, and the individual in the right place, at the right time, with a degree of receptivity will be the individual through whom It will appear to come. But you and I do not have to judge or appoint him. You and I do not even have to wonder who he is, or where. We need only dwell in the realization that salvation will come, not by might, nor by power, but by the spirit of God. Your function and mine is to be an instrument through which the presence of God can touch humanity. That is our only reason for living. ...

“Students of The Infinite Way around this globe must accept the responsibility for the world conditions of today. It has been said, and I’m sure rightly said, that you are getting the kind of government you deserve, and everyone does. Sometimes that is hard to believe, but it’s true. ... The vast majority of the citizens of any country are responsible for the type of government they have, and when they don’t want it, it won’t be that way. ... We don’t need majorities. ‘One with God is a majority.’ ... We have no way of knowing the degree of power there is in one individual consciously realizing the presence of God.

“Our faith is not in might or in power; our real faith isn’t in the ballot either, because that’s merely the might of numbers or percentages. Our ultimate reliance is in the degree of our awareness of the presence of God, in the degree of our realization of the impersonal nature of the Christ as being the seat of government, not ‘man, whose breath is in his nostrils.’ Therefore, let us accept the responsibility, and I don’t mean that English people should accept the responsibility for the government of England and Americans should accept the responsibility for the government of America. That is stupidity; that is drawing a line about mine and thine. ...

“Anything that takes place in Australia can affect those in England and affect us even more so in Hawaii. So let us not be concerned only about the governments of England, Ireland, Wales, or South Africa, but of the world, of the spiritual kingdom being humanly manifest.”

“Grace,” The 1958 London Advanced Class. (234A)

“Every man who has betrayed anyone or anything was first put in a position to do the betraying. You and I have never betrayed a nation, but nobody ever gave us the reins of authority. You first must empower someone before he can betray the power. ... Shall I have faith that there is a man or group of men who can save me individually or the world collectively? ...

“A very small group of individuals who no longer place their confidence in a political party or political candidate can change the entire result of an election. ... That does not mean they can elect their candidate or their party. It only means that out of the candidates who are running, those nearest to the level of spiritual integrity will be elected. That would be done only by those who could give up their faith and confidence in any man or party and realize that no power is in the visible.

“In certain places, votes are controlled by certain interests. For example, in some places it could be said that the labor vote will control the election in that community; in some other community it could be said that a church would dominate the election because [their members] are in the majority, and they would control the election; in some other places it would be said that the industrialists have control of the votes in their community and would do it. It is that very belief that perpetuates the evils of our political world because the power is not in an individual or in a group. The power is in the Spirit, and when we withdraw our faith, hope, confidence, or fear and place our entire reliance on the Invisible, ‘there is always some leveling circumstances that puts down the overbearing. ... Though no checks to a new evil appear, the checks exist, and will appear. ... The dice of God are always loaded.’ The leveling circumstance is God, spiritual law.”

“The Dice of God Are Loaded—Emerson,”
The 1960 Hawaiian Village Open Class. (365B)

“You pray for guidance as to whom to vote for. You will go to the polls on election day and you’ll vote. You’ll find no excuse to stay home. And you do that as an obligation of citizenship. But you won’t expect that the world’s problems are going to be solved that way. The world’s problems are going to be solved spiritually. ... As citizens we will vote for whoever it is that is revealed to us within ourselves as being the

highest human form of government. But heaven forbid that we should put the responsibility on any President, Governor, Senator, or Congressman to save the world when we are in a spiritual dynasty, where we know that the government is on His shoulder.

“We have the opportunity to witness our lives so spiritually governed that the discords of this world will not come nigh our dwelling place. ... While there is an opportunity for us to be governed by good administrations in the capitals of the world, while there is the possibility of our enjoying good incomes just because times are good and business is good, as long as there is an opportunity to enjoy good health because we are within the age bracket where good health is the most usual thing, we do not find it easy to accept our opportunity for spiritual health, spiritual supply, spiritual government, nor to place our entire hope, confidence, faith, and reliance in the spiritual means.

“But now, we are facing half a dozen human problems, not only in our national life but in our international life, any one or two or three of which could tear the foundations out from under our entire civilization. We have the opportunity, if we are willing, to tackle the problem, putting up that sword, relinquishing our confidence, faith, or hope in any human administrations or human plans or agreements and... asking ourselves, ‘Do I have the courage to take advantage of this opportunity to come out from under the law and live by Grace? Do I have the courage to declare within myself that I must no longer have faith in “man, whose breath is in his nostrils”? I must no longer have faith in princes, potentates, or powers, but actually retire within myself for an assurance of an inner grace.’”

“The Way,” The 1960 Chicago Open Class. (323A)

* *Spiritual Discernment* is comprised of the 1974 Monthly Letters sent out by Joel's editor Lorraine Sinkler; Miss Sinkler continued sending out this Letter to Infinite Way students around the world for many years after Joel's passing. The Letters always contained a section comprised of excerpts from recordings.

** These recorded talks cited in *Spiritual Discernment* can be purchased or streamed from <https://joelgoldsmithstreaming.com>.