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*Spiritual
New Year*

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Happy New Year to our valued readers!

This timely excerpt from *Living by the Word* recommends key chapters in the readings about the spiritual New Year:

...Just as with every New Year the world is flooded with predictions about the year to come, so for many years it was Joel's custom to give students a special message for the New Year. This message was not one of prophecy, but of how to live effectively in the present moment. Each moment is to be looked upon as an opportunity to "turn ye, and live," because in that moment of turning, not only a new year, but a new life opens.

Most of these messages of Joel for the New Year have been incorporated in the writings. Your year—your life—can change if you will study and take seriously some of these chapters such as:

"The Spiritual New Year," *Man Was Not Born to Cry*

"Living now," *Living Now*

"Consciousness Unfolding as the Harmony of the New Year," *Awakening Mystical Consciousness*

Living by the Word
Chapter 1, "Across the Desk"

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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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The Electronic Search Tool is an ideal way to begin your in-depth study. Though the list of possible search words on this month's topic is long, here are just a few suggestions:

(For specific citations add quotation marks around phrase.)

"consciousness determines"	nowness
"contact with God"	"our tomorrow"
"degree of harmony"	"preparation for"
"God's plan"	"spiritual new year"
"is this God's plan?"	"your experience"
"new beginning"	"your future"
newness	"your own consciousness"
"now determines"	"your spiritual unfoldment"

SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR

From *The Only Freedom*

... *Every Day, the Beginning of a New Year*

Just as you have learned in spiritual work that Sunday is seven days a week and that you must not only live seven days a week as you are taught to live on Sunday, the sabbath, but that there must be no difference in your conduct, in your thought, in your consciousness, or in your life on any of the seven days of the week, so you will learn that it is not only January first that is New Year's Day, but that a new year actually begins every day of the week.

Therefore, if you are not living in the consciousness of "Happy New Year, My peace I give unto thee, God's grace is with thee," every day throughout the year, then you are setting aside only one day as New Year's Day and this is valueless, because every second of every minute of every hour actually marks the beginning of a new year.

Live Now, Second by Second, and Wipe Out the Past

Every second is the beginning of a new life because in any second and in every second you can wipe out your past. You do not have to wait for the first day of January to begin a new life. You do not have to wait for January first to forgive or to be forgiven. You do not have to wait for January first to wish the whole world peace on earth. You do not have to wait for January first to stop hating or to eliminate prejudice, bias, and bigotry from consciousness. You can begin a new life in any second. But you can also bring to others a new life in any second of their experience by opening the door of consciousness in this way and admitting them to divine grace.

The Only Freedom

Chapter 1 – "A Message for the New Year"

From *Living the Illumined Life*

...As the calendar announces the opening of a New Year, we have a good opportunity to meditate on the nowness of being which we know is present every minute of each day, a principle so clearly brought out in this letter. The world celebrates a New Year in the hope that it will bring peace and tranquility to a world filled with strife, dissension, and discord. We know that this hope will be fulfilled only when the light of Truth has permeated the consciousness of a sufficient number of dedicated souls, so that they can lift the world out of its hypnotic spell, and when enough love has been poured forth to dispel the darkness, the dream that holds the world in its grip. Let us be diligent in our work for the world, for only when the spiritually minded unite with their Source and are thus able to see this earth here and now as heaven will this harmony be realized. Since now is the only time, this harmony is already here, and we need only recognize its presence. Then we will always have a happy New Year.

Living the Illumined Life

Chapter 1 – “The Now Activity of the Christ”

From *Man Was Not Born to Cry*

...If the beginning of a new year remains only a calendar-wise beginning, it has no significance whatsoever and produces no assurance as to the kind of a year it can be for you or for me individually, or for anyone else in the world. Always at this time there are the traditional Happy New Years, but regardless of how many good wishes are given or received, they are without power to bring about happiness, peace, harmony, or prosperity in the new, or in any other, year.

Newspapers on New Year’s Day are usually filled with predictions for the coming year; figures and statistics are examined in an attempt to forecast what will happen; but

inasmuch as each person has an entirely different way of evaluating available statistics, each arrives at a different conclusion.

It would be interesting to read the predictions in the January 1 editions of last year's newspapers to see how very few of them have come to pass, for neither predictions nor wishes have power to bring about anything in our experience. Far from presenting a hopeless picture, however, this really is the foundation for a very encouraging one because once it is realized that predictions and wishes have no influence upon the year, people can then begin to see what can be done within themselves that will have an effect upon the course of the New Year.

The Power of an Individual

Everyone has not only tremendous influence upon his own life and upon the lives of those who are near and dear to him but, far more than this, he has the possibility of influencing the whole world. In fact, the course of history has often been altered by one person. The 1960 election is an excellent example of the power of the individual. Just a few votes in this community or in that changed the results in a state and, comparatively speaking, less than half of one percent determined the result of the entire election. So when we are tempted to think how little power we have in shaping the history of our nation or the world, let us remember how powerful one single vote or a dozen can be.

Man Was Not Born to Cry

Chapter 1 – “The Spiritual New Year”

From *Living by the Word*

...The important point is not whether or not we have what we think of as complete happiness or peace today. As a rule, that is just some namby-pamby idea of what constitutes happiness or peace. What counts is whether or not we are

preparing ourselves by study, by meditation, by companioning with those on the spiritual path for the hearing of that “still small voice,” for the actual experience of the Christ.

Once we achieve it, we are free from organization, from governmental support, and from all those bonds that the human mind wants to place on itself. Once we have achieved this contact with our inner being, with our Christhood, we are in bondage to no man, to no organization, to no government, to no form of economy. We are then free in Christ, and we can say, “Christ lives my life. It makes no difference whether we have capitalism or communism; it makes no difference whether we have depressions or booms; it makes no difference whether we have floods or droughts. The Christ lives my life.”

Living by the Word

Chapter 1 – “Living by the Word”

From Awakening Mystical Consciousness

...Only one thing will set the world free: the consciousness of divine Grace within you and me and all mankind. As we begin to see proofs of this in our experience and have experiences that show us that Grace is operating, we will look out at everyone in our community with the attitude, “Isn’t this wonderful? I can set you free by realizing the kingdom of Grace is operating within you. It will not let evil come near your dwelling place. It will not let sin, false appetite, disease, or man’s inhumanity to man come near you.”

Instead of feeling responsible for people in the sense of becoming do-gooders, we look out at this world with a smile and a “Thank You, Father, for having revealed to me that the kingdom of Grace is operating in the consciousness of every individual.” As each one becomes aware of the kingdom of Grace operating within him, a year of fulfillment is assured. Nothing else can assure it.

Peace on earth will never come through armaments or

wars; peace on earth will never come through agreements between nations because there have been agreements between nations since long “before Abraham was.” None of them has ever been honored any longer than it served the purpose of the nation that signed it. Any and every nation has broken the agreements it signed when it suited its purpose. Therefore, peace will never come by agreement. Peace will come when there is peace in people’s hearts. There is only one thing that will bring that peace: the realization of divine Grace within.

Awakening Mystical Consciousness
Chapter 12 – “Consciousness Unfolding
as the Harmony of Our Experience

From The 1964 San Fernando Valley Center Class

... We have witnessed this, that at the beginning of the year everyone says to us, “Happy New Year, and that we know that during the year it isn’t going to be much happier than the year before unless we can do something very different than we did the year before. But we do know this: that if we are storing up in this year something to carry into the next year, that will produce the happy new year or prosperous new year, and what it is that we carry is this—the Spirit. *I* stand at the door of your consciousness and knock, and *I* means God. *I* means the Spirit. *I* means the Christ, that of which the Master spoke. Not only *I* am come that you might have life more abundantly, but *I* will be with you until the end of the world, and this *I* of which he speaks, which is Divinity, divine Selfhood, the Soul of you, stands at the door of your consciousness and knocks.

Recording 542B – 1964
San Fernando Valley Class “The Dedicated Consciousness”

From Parenthesis in Eternity

...We know nothing about tomorrow, nor can we have the faintest idea of what will take place tomorrow. If we think we know, we are limiting our tomorrow to what we know about yesterday and today; and if we do that, we are not leaving ourselves open for a God-experience. God does not operate tomorrow. The tomorrow-operation of God is dependent on the now-operation of God because God is functioning only in this split second, and in every continuing split second. Even God cannot take a rosebud and in a few minutes turn it into a full-blown rose. God functions now. We, then, being a part of the functioning of the now, unfold in accordance with the nature of our being, but we cannot do this without God. We cannot get God to do it yesterday, and we cannot get God to do it tomorrow. The tomorrowness of God is due solely to the nowness of God.

Parenthesis in Eternity

Chapter 29 – “Beyond Time and Space”

From The 1959 England Open Class

...God Is. Now, God is all. God is all intelligence, all life, all love. And in this very moment, while not one of us in this room knows what tomorrow has in store for us, God is preparing our tomorrow, and all we're called upon to do is be a beholder, and watch this minute, and the next minute, and the next minute, and behold God's glory.

Recording 279A – 1959

England Open Class “Three Major Principles”

From Our Spiritual Resources

...Our only value to this world will be in proportion to our ability to prove these principles first in our individual lives, then in the harmonies that take place within our families, and finally, in the degree of harmony, health, and peace that

we can bring to those who are led to us, thereby eventually encompassing the globe and all the peoples of the world.

Our Spiritual Resources
Chapter 12 – “The Principle of Nonpower”

From *Consciousness Is What I Am*

... Nothing can come into our experience except through our consciousness, so what our life will be depends on what we entertain in consciousness. If we entertain the idea of God as omnipresent Intelligence, Love, and Power, good is going to be our experience. Our responsibility is to be still and let Omnipresence flow. We need not take thought or plan anything; we just live whatever flows through, which will be every quality of God. Why? Because that is what we are entertaining in consciousness: God. We do not have to think thoughts of generosity, forgiveness, or abundance. We have only to abide in Omnipresence, Omniscience, and Omnipotence, and when we do that we lose all capacity for anything but God, and God flows through.

Consciousness Is What I Am
Chapter 8 – “The Issues of Life are in Consciousness”

From *God the Substance of All Form*

... You will be surprised at the miraculous things that happen from the moment you realize that your good is the unfoldment of your individual consciousness, from the moment that you are not looking for your good to come from “up here” or “out there,” from person, place, or thing, from the moment that you expect it as the outpouring of the activity of your own individual consciousness. Miracles begin to happen from that moment, and they really are miracles. The multiplication of the loaves and fishes is an example of what occurs when, like Jesus, you turn to the Father—your own consciousness—and realize that you cannot go out and

buy enough bread and meat to feed four or five thousand people, and that therefore it must come forth as the activity of your own consciousness.

God the Substance of All Form
Chapter 12 – “Good Unfolding as the
Activity of Individual Consciousness”

From *Spiritual Discernment*

...Nothing enters your experience except through your consciousness. There is no God outside of you; there is no devil outside of you; and there are no laws outside of you. Whatever is operating in you is operating through and in your own consciousness, and it is one of two things. It is either a consciousness of truth or an ignorance of truth. If you are ignorant of truth, you are not free but, if you know the truth, the truth will make you free. It is the knowing or the consciousness of truth that makes free. You must consciously know the truth—not sit around waiting for some mysterious God to do something for you because you are charitable, kind, or moral. It will not work. It is your abiding in the truth, your abiding in God and letting God abide in you. You are the one who must do it.

Spiritual Discernment
Chapter 12 – “The Transition to Christhood”

From The 1962 Mission Inn Closed Class

... How do I know, and how do you know what God’s will is for you tomorrow morning? You know about what you would like it to be, I grant that. But do you, do you actually have an inside track with God, so that you know what God’s plan is for you or for this world or for this group? And you know the answer. You don’t know it any more than I do, and there’s only one way we’re ever going to know it, and that is to say, “Nevertheless, Father, not my will but

thine be done.” Therefore, I will not direct You, influence You, ask for anything. I will merely close my eyes and say, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. I will rest and sleep tonight, awaken tomorrow in the assurance that I have opened myself that Thy will be done in my affairs, and I will follow whatever direction I receive.”

Recording 453A – The 1962 Mission Inn Closed Class
“ Special Reference for Study and Practice”

From *The Art of Meditation*

... Never look upon the discords and inharmonies of your life as if they represented a lack of understanding or a lack of demonstration. Regard these fortuitous circumstances as opportunities which will be dissolved when they no longer serve their purpose as spurs to your spiritual unfoldment.

Have courage to look at every person and circumstance that you consider harmful or destructive. In the silence, face the situation fearlessly; face the condition or the person and you will discover that it—or he—is an image of your own thought; and, therefore, there is no cause, jurisdiction, or law to support it. Recognize God as the Soul of every person and God as the activity in every situation.

Fear not what mortal thought can think or do, since mortal thought is self-destructive. Fear not the thoughts or deeds of man whose breath is in his nostrils. You are the temple of God, and God is in His holy temple now. You are the temple of the living God; your body is the temple of the living God; your life, your soul, your mind is the abiding place of truth, and if you abide in this truth and let this truth abide in you, no evil will come nigh your dwelling place.

The Art of Meditation
Chapter 13 – “Fear Not”

From *Realization of Oneness*

... Wake up to the fact that your experience is going to be your own state of consciousness objectified. If you persist in walking around all day without living consciously in the realization of God—omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient God here and now, the all and only Power—and without impersonalizing all phases of evil and realizing that they exist only as the “arm of flesh” or nothingness, you will not bring harmony into your experience.

From the moment of waking in the morning to going to sleep at night, you should be doing protective work. But do not think of protective work in the sense of protecting yourself or anybody else from evil. Protective work is the realization that there is no power from which to protect yourself. It is living in the realization that since there is only one Power there are no powers to do anything or be anything, and any suggestion of some other power is a mesmeric influence. That is protective work.

Realization of Oneness

Chapter 10 – “It Shall Not Come Nigh Thee”

From *Living the Illumined Life*

... If for a year we give one hour a day to truth—to reading, meditating, and practicing—we are going to find in the next year some measure of either greater harmony or less discord. If we give four hours each day for a year, we are going to find in our second year that much more of harmony and that much less of discord.

The amount of time and effort we give to truth determines the degree of harmony we enjoy next year. So also, the time and effort that we do not give to truth determines the amount of discord that can come into our experience next year. We are building our experience every day of our

life. “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” As a man soweth *when*? As he sows this minute. Now is the time. Let us not talk about the past; let us not talk about the future. We are interested only in one time, and that time is now, and it is now that we are building our tomorrows, our next years, and all the succeeding years. With what is going on in our consciousness now, we are determining our future. There is no use for anyone to wish us a good year if we are not building that good year now.

Living the Illumined Life

Chapter 5 – “Putting Off the Old Man and Rebirth”

From *A Parenthesis in Eternity*

... The spiritual form as which we exist today is the same form as which we existed yesterday, and it is the form as which we will exist forever. The *I* of us and of all God-substance are one and the same, and even the body is made of that same pure substance. *I* is incorporeal and spiritual; *I* has form, but it is not a dense form: it has no thickness and it has no weight. It is really a “light” form. To begin to perceive this is to understand that our present existence is of the same spiritual nature as our preexistence was and as our future existences will be.

A Parenthesis in Eternity

Chapter 21 – “The Spirit of the Lord God Hath Anointed Me”

From The 1960 Seattle Closed Class

... The only reason we believe we know what’s good for us is we know the things of our past that we liked, and we would like more of them, more of yesterday’s manna, whereas, every moment of every day is a fresh new beginning. We don’t even have to wait for sunrise tomorrow to make a new beginning. We never have to wait for an hour from now to make a new beginning. We can always turn over a new leaf

in any moment, and then if we fall down an hour from now, we can start right over again. Because, the process is listening, listening for that still small voice. Remember, when He uttereth His voice—His voice—the earth melteth.

Recording 308B – The 1960 Seattle Closed Class
“Primal Consciousness – Its Dawning” cont.

From *Consciousness in Transition*

... So we come to this point: What is the motive for our study? Because on that depends all of our future in this work. I do not mean that those of you who cannot grasp what I am saying may not go back to the mental again. If necessary, that is what you will have to do until you are able to come up out of it. But to those who have caught the glimpse of this, the whole of your future is going to depend on whether or not you can determine to seek only the consciousness of the presence of God, and let the things be added. That is going to be the measure of your demonstration.

Consciousness in Transition
Chapter 4 – “Thought is not Power”

From *God Formed Us For His Glory*

... “*Today*”

“The New Year must be the product of what we make it. The New Year must be something that we start in operation this minute. It will not do to wait until midnight tonight; it will not do to start tomorrow. The type of year that we are to experience must be started now in this moment by an act of decision, and each one must make the decision for himself: Am I to be God-governed or man-governed this year? I must now choose whether I will serve God or man. If I am true to God, I need have no fear that I will be untrue to

man, to my government, or to any government... that stands for the integrity of individual being, individual freedom, liberty, and justice. Therefore, I must take my stand for government under God. ...”

God Formed Us For His Glory

Chapter 1 – “Introduction to the Spiritual Plane”

(This excerpt from Across the Desk: quotation from recording 443B – 1961 Hawaiian Village Open Class – “New Year’s 1962”)

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