

SELECTED STUDY GUIDES

THE ELECTRONIC SEARCH TOOL

IMPORTANT CHAPTERS COLLECTION

*Contemplation
Develops the
Beholder*

PART ONE

THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE

CHAPTER 8

The Joel S. 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”

“CONTEMPLATION DEVELOPS THE BEHOLDER”

(PART ONE)

THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE CHAPTER EIGHT

Chapter Highlights*

...there is no life that requires greater discipline than does the spiritual life.

...Life, as it is lived by most persons, is more or less undisciplined because little or no attempt is made by the individual to control the nature of his thinking....the entire spiritual life is based on the rejection of appearances.

Pp 121

...The discipline on this path lies in rejecting every appearance, whether it is good or evil, in the realization that whatever it is that is of God is invisible to the human senses.

...Under the old metaphysics, if we were confronted with an appearance and judged it to be evil, we immediately had to resist it: overcome, destroy, or remove it. If, on the other hand, we were confronted with an appearance of human good, we accepted it and rejoiced over it. The danger in this procedure, however, is that the very thing that appears to be good may, in and of itself, be evil, or may change to evil, or its effect upon one may be of an evil nature.

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

...A very good illustration of this is that nearly everybody would agree that having a million dollars—earning or inheriting it—is good, and yet the acquisition of a million dollars has proved to be the ruination of many persons.

Pp 122

...In the human picture practically everyone, almost without exception, rejoices at a birth and sorrows at a death. Nevertheless, more trouble has been caused in the world by birth than ever has been caused by death.

...there is a Power that is within each and every one of us, and this Power has as Its function the creating, maintaining, and sustaining of harmony in our existence, and when for any reason harmony is apparently taken from our lives, Its function is to restore it.

...In every one of the miracles performed by the Master, there was the denial of self and the glorification of the Father. Always it was, “I of my own self am doing nothing, for I of my own self am nothing. If I speak of myself, I bear witness to a lie. Therefore, it is not I who am good, it is not I who do the healing: I am but bearing witness to the presence and power of God.”

Pp 123

...How can we bear witness to this Power except by being still? If we do otherwise, we can no longer say that we are doing nothing or that we are nothing.

...Therefore, when we are confronted with appearances—whether the appearance is called good or evil—we are being confronted with a human appearance, and if we would bear witness to the presence of God, we must do nothing, we must think nothing, and we must have no judgment.

...you will understand this to be a disciplined withholding of judging as to good or evil and an attitude of expectancy—as of listening within. Be sure that you understand the significance of this attitude.

...In order to make ourselves nothing, we must immediately realize within ourselves, “There is neither good nor evil: there is only God.” Then, as we look out at the erroneous appearance with no judgment, there truly is neither good nor evil: there is only the presence of God, and now the Father within can perform Its function, and Its function is to dissolve the appearance and reveal God’s glory—reveal Its own being.

...Even though to our sense a healing appears, it is not really a healing: it is the dissolving of the material picture, and the bringing to visibility of the spiritual one.

Pp 124

...When you witness healing works, always remember what it is you are witnessing. You are not witnessing the power of an individual, for an individual has no such power: you are merely witnessing an individual who is keeping himself free of the appearance-world and maintaining himself in a consciousness of no judgment, so that the grace of God can come through, because the grace of God cannot come through the human mind.

Pp 125

... Healing power has to do with the degree of the actual awareness and conviction attained of the nonpower of appearances. It is for this reason that the spiritual path is a path of discipline, and every disciple or student must begin at some moment in his career to withhold judgment.

...In proportion as this consciousness of no judgment is attained, the appearances in this world automatically change as they touch your consciousness.

...The Master's statement, "My kingdom is not of this world," helps us to discipline ourselves.

Pp 126

...Think, think of any discordant appearance that you have ever seen, heard, tasted, touched, or smelled; see the discipline that is necessary to refrain from attempting to alter, change, or do something about it; and then be convinced and know, "My kingdom—the place where I live, move, and have my being—is not of this world. Therefore, I have nothing to do about this world except to know that it is not of My kingdom."

Pp 126-127

...When the disciples were afraid because of the storm at sea, they awakened the Master, but he did not attempt to stop the storm by praying to God because he knew that he was being faced with an illusory appearance. He merely "rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

The disciples, seized as they were by fear, were responding as most people do to that first law of nature, the law of self-preservation.

Pp 127

...What but self-preservation lies behind every war? Men call it patriotism because they claim that wars are fought to preserve the nation, but a nation is only a group of individuals, so in the final analysis it is the preservation and perpetuation of themselves, of their human lives and human supply, that induces them to enter into a war.

...In the storm then, the disciples were not really afraid of the storm. What difference would a storm have made to them if they had not believed that their lives were in danger?

...Many of us would be able to attain our release from the world of cause and effect, that is, from the world of appearances, if only we could bring to bear upon the situation that great assurance of the Master, "It is I; be not afraid."

...Similarly, who cares how many germs there are in the world, unless we can be made to believe that germs can destroy our life?

Pp 128

...But suppose we came to the realization that our life is indestructible, that neither life nor death can separate us from God? Now what difference would germs make?

...*"None of these things move me." My life is God; my life is in God; my life is with God; and neither life nor death can separate me from God.*

...No one can possibly fear death once he realizes that neither death nor life can separate him from the Life that he is, the Life that is his being.

Pp 129

**Related passages for further study,
compiled using The Electronic Search Tool.**

Search: “than the spiritual life”

From The 1960 Maui Work

...Many times we, especially the younger student, is apt to believe that the spiritual way of life, the contemplative way of life, is one without discipline. And the very opposite of this is true, because there is no life that requires more disciplining than the spiritual life. (Pause) The human life, as much as we think that it is disciplined, is more or less an undisciplined one because little attempt is made to control the nature of our thinking. We are more apt to accept everything that we see or hear and then rejoice over what we think is good and start to moan over what we believe to be evil, so that we don't really discipline ourselves to ask, “is this as good as it appears to be” or “is this as evil as it appears to be?”

369 B 1960 Maui Work
“Contemplation Develops the Beholder”

Search: “rejecting every”

From *The Master Speaks*

...God has given us a consciousness, a Spirit, a sense of power—not mere words to declare. When we are confronted with problems of our own or those of others, let us not be too quick to try to find out what is true or what is false about the problem. It does not make much difference what the truth is or what the lie is. The letter of truth will not do the work. Intellectually knowing more truth will not help. It is the Spirit, the consciousness we entertain, that does the work. It is the ability, when looking at a human being, to

perceive that which is not apparent to the human senses, and in that perception see through the individual to the Christ of his being. All of our work is the development of spiritual consciousness.

The Master Speaks, Chapter 3
“Seeing and Hearing”

From The 1955 Kailua Study Group

... Truth is something that can work through you if you are quiet enough. The one sure way to block truth, to prevent Spirit from operating, is to be continuously engaged in thoughts and speeches—even metaphysical thoughts and speeches because they are only the avenues which help us to rise in consciousness. But then must come the periods of silence, of stillness, and more especially is this true when we are confronted with an appearance of error. In other words, if we at this moment were to become aware of some catastrophe about us, or some illness or accident, wisdom would say to us, “Stop this talking. Stop this teaching, and all sit back and just get quiet; get still, and let the Sprit come through.”

125 B 1955 Kailua Study Group
“Inner Realization”

Search: “there is a power”

From *The Infinite Way*

...We bind ourselves by believing that there is a power outside of us—a power for good or for evil. All power is given to you. And this power is always good because of the infinite Source whence it flows.

The Infinite Way
“Metaphysical Healing”

From The 1956 First Steinway Hall Closed Class

... Now I would like you to know this: there is a power of Grace. By “Grace” I mean our good achieved through the gift of God, achieved *as* the gift of God. Our good flowing to us and through us without our earning it or deserving it, or laboring for it—that’s what I mean by Grace.

... Now that Grace cannot work in us and through us while fear blocks it. The fear of “I,” the fear of myself, the fear of my possession, blocks the power of Grace. It is when we throw ourselves open in the realization that there is a power of Grace functioning in this world that we begin to lose our fears and hatreds of each other as individuals or as nations. Now—there is a power of Grace. That is the last thing that most people can come to believe—that there is a power of Grace in this universe that would prevent our ever again having a worry or a fear.

146 B 1956 First Steinway Hall Closed Class
“There is No Power”

From *Awakening Mystical Consciousness*

...What is called the power of God is not really power at all. For example, I do not need any power this minute. I am sitting here in an atmosphere of love, so why do I need a power? I am sitting here in an atmosphere of life, so for what would I need a power? I am sitting here in an atmosphere of joy. I do not need a power for anything. I am content and complete. But there is a Power here. There is a Power that created this atmosphere, that created us in Its image, and that maintains and sustains us. But I need no power. God is here; God is power; God is the power of the atmosphere of my environment; and God will maintain this atmosphere unto eternity if I stand fast in it.

Awakening Mystical Consciousness, Chapter 9
“The Mystic and Healing”

Search: “of expectancy”

From The 1953 First New York Lecture Series

...Always when we go into meditation, it is not in the nature of mental work, it is not in the nature of affirmations or denials or prayers; our meditation is a turning within with that listening ear in an attitude of expectancy. Not of some good out here, not of expecting supply or companionship or home or peace, but expecting the word of God to reveal Itself to us, expecting the word of God to come to our consciousness. Never, never is it the word that goes out from our mouth that is the word of God. Never is it the thought we think that is the power. It is the word of God that comes to us, within us. Now that can only be accomplished through an attitude of listening, an attitude of expectancy, an attitude that the Master gave us in His words, “‘I can of my own self do nothing,’ now Father it’s Your turn.” And letting that Father come through, letting the word of God come to our consciousness from within our own being.

43 A 1953 First New York Lecture Series
“The Word Within”

Search: “release from the world”

From The 1953 Second Hawaiian Series

... Ultimate release...ah, now here’s the word: ultimate release from the claims of the world, that is, ill health, lack, war, un-peace, discord, inharmony; ultimate release from the world comes with the complete realization of God for God. There are no added things in God. God is the “thing” itself. God constitutes the only health, harmony, abundance, peace and security there is.

24 A 1953 Second Hawaiian Series –
“The Realm of Spirit”

Search: “is your life, your being”

From *Collected Essays of Joel Goldsmith*

...There is but one consciousness and it embodies every quality of Love, every activity of Mind, *all* the harmony of divine Being. There is no selfhood apart from God; there is but one Life, one Being, one Mind. It is your life, your being, your mind. Nothing can be added to you or taken from you, and into your consciousness nothing can enter that “defileth or maketh a lie.” You are about your Father’s business.

Collected Essays of Joel Goldsmith
“Ye Are the Light”

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