

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL READING  
THE ELECTRONIC SEARCH TOOL

FOR

*The Altitude of Prayer*

CHAPTER 3

“Bringing Our Gift to the Altar”

MARCH, 2022

The Joel S. Goldsmith  
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FOR

*The Altitude of Prayer*

CHAPTER 3

“Bringing Our Gift to the Altar”

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Chapter Highlights

*... If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

Matthew 5:23, 24

... How many times have we brought our gift of prayer to God without first making peace with our fellow man!

Pp 25

... To pray for someone else’s forgiveness has no power, insofar as influencing God in our behalf, but praying for our enemies is a release to us. It is an acknowledgment that we have held somebody in bondage to a wrong and, therefore, it is really asking for our own forgiveness. This act of humility is demanded of us before there can be answered prayer.

... A person cannot be the same today as he was yesterday and expect to have his prayers answered. There must be a constant willingness and striving that purification take place...

Pp 26

... It is only in the constant desire to be purified through the surrender of self that prayer is answered.

Pp 26-27

... As we are shown the things about ourselves that require correction, we enter into the spirit of forgiveness.... *Father, I do not pray that my enemies be destroyed: I pray that they be forgiven.*

Pp 27

... Prayer which takes an attitude of praying for the world and reaches that high altitude of forgiveness and of praying for the enemy is a way of life.

... It is not that we do not know the human faults of many, nor that we condone the acts of dictators or tyrants, but we must rise high in consciousness before we can really pray, "Father, forgive these tyrants. Forgive those who are causing what may be the destruction of the world. Do not destroy them, Father: forgive them. Open their eyes; open their ears; open their hearts. I do not seek that they be overcome or destroyed. I do not seek revenge, but rather that they be forgiven."

Pp 28

... Who is a child of God except one who prays for the enemy, one who forgives seventy times seven? Do we want to be children of God? As children of God, we are heirs of God, joint-heirs to all the heavenly riches. Do we want that?

Pp 28-29

... There is no access to God except through love, and love is not a sensual emotion: love is a state of spiritual integrity, the integrity that enables us to say to ourselves as we go within in prayer: *Here, Father, here I am.... The intent of my heart is*

*that the Grace that flows to me will be shared with those who have less.*

... We are not ready to pray unless we are able to look out at our neighbor and realize, “Christ is as much the center of your being as of my being.”

Pp 29

... Think what wonderful things can happen in our homes when we look upon every member of our family with “My peace I give unto you,” instead of “my criticism, my complaint, my judgment.”

... We should never permit ourselves to be defiled by thinking defiling thoughts of others. Toward those whom we see in what we think of as sin, our attitude must always be one of forgiveness, not of forgiving them as much as forgiving ourselves for seeing them erroneously.

Pp 30

*... I have no knowledge of you. I do not know if you are young or old, good or bad, sick or well, alive or dead. I know nothing about you. I sit here with an open, unconditioned mind. I will not call you good, and I will not call you bad. I will not call you healthy or unhealthy; I will not call you saint or sinner; I will not call you young or old. Any judgment that I make would be based on appearances, and appearances can be deceptive. I will sit here without a concept, letting the Father within tell me what I need to know about you. Judging by appearances, I have no way of knowing you at all. Therefore, I will listen; I will be instructed.*

Pp 30-31

... Then inwardly we are told, “These are My beloved children in whom I am well pleased. My grace is their sufficiency, and someday even the apparently stupid ones will awaken and discover it.”

... This is what we learn when we look out at the world without judgment, with the unconditioned mind, and let God reveal the truth about the person, situation, or condition.

... *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,” and God dwelleth in you? Thou art the son of God; thou art the child of God. The Spirit of the Lord God dwelleth in you, and you in Him, for ye are one.*

Pp 31

... Father and son and Holy Spirit are not three but one, and that one is you: Father and son and Holy Spirit in you. This, the unconditioned mind reveals.

... As we rise into the consciousness of this truth and know it, it frees us from the belief that we are human beings in need of forgiveness. It frees us from the belief that we are young or old, sick or well. It reveals to us the truth of the spiritual nature of our being; and that is the only being there is.

... Prayer has many facets, but in the highest prayer we wait for God to give us His word. When He gives us His word, it is the truth about you and about me; it is the truth about God-government on earth.... Do not think for a moment that peace can come unless some on earth acknowledge the divinity and Christliness of individual being, unless there are those who acknowledge that Soul, mind, and body are sacred.

Pp 32

... Prayer that does not include the realization that God's grace is universal and impersonal, that It is for the sinner as well as for the saint at any time the sinner or the saint wishes to open his eyes to It, is not a prayer of spiritual understanding. Prayer, if it includes one, includes the Christ; if it excludes one, excludes the Christ.

... This is the attitude of prayer: humility, benevolence, spiritual integrity. There must be no mental reservations. Our heart is open to receive God's grace that It may flow to our neighbor. In this purity of motive, our prayers will be answered.

Pp 33

... The word "love" is heard so much that we may gather the impression that there is a love somewhere that will do something for us. There is not. The years of my life spent in the search for truth led to the discovery of the principles of The Infinite Way, and whatever success has attended the work has been the result of the practice of these principles.

There is no love in heaven or on earth that will do anything for us except the love that we express. The love that meets our need is the love that flows out through us. It is not the love that comes to us from God; it is not the love that comes to us from other persons, high or low.

... When [the Master] said, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. ... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me," he was outlining the things that we must do: visit the sick, comfort the comfortless, visit them that are in prison. In prison? Did he mean only those behind prison bars? No, every human being is in prison, imprisoned in his own mind, in his own troubles, in his own problems, in his own false beliefs, in his own hates, animosities, and jealousies.

Pp 34

... Is there any prison greater than the prison of fear? So we must visit our friends and our enemies in their particular prisons and release them. And we can! We can release all

who come to us from their prisons, but only in one way: by releasing that divine love that holds no one in bondage.

Pp 34-35

... Whenever the spirit of love is entertained within us, freedom comes from whatever our particular prison may be.

Pp 35

... It is impossible for us to come to the throne of God pure of spirit and not draw unto us all those ready to be forgiven, all those ready to be healed or to be enriched. "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"—not all who exist in the world, but all who are ready, receptive, and responsive.... In loving mankind we are loving the Christ, and only in the love that we express to mankind are we expressing love to the Christ.

Pp 36

... Prayer itself will come to us in that moment when our consciousness is purified and we stand in the presence of God, completely still, without any desire except one: *Here I am. Fill me! Be my mind; be my soul; be my spirit. I seek nothing of Thee, God. I seek only to be an instrument through which Thy grace, Thy love, Thy forgiveness, Thy supply, and Thy infinite presence flow through me and out into the world.*

Pp 37

... We look out upon the world with no animosity, no remembrance of grievances, with full forgiveness of those who have offended us personally, racially, or nationally. At this moment, we are not sitting in judgment on anyone, nor holding him in criticism or condemnation. If we cannot at

the moment feel forgiveness, at least we can ask the Father within to do the forgiving for us and pray that that the enemy be awakened, forgiven, illumined, and enlightened.

... We robe ourselves in the royal robes of the Spirit; we place upon our finger the jewel of spiritual authority, so that we may say, "Neither do I condemn or judge thee. Thy sins be forgiven thee. God's grace be thy sufficiency."

Pp 38

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### **Search: "forgive those"**

#### **From The 1954 Seattle Closed Class**

... Now when you study the Gospels, what do you find? That you've got to forgive unto seventy times seven, that you have to forgive those who persecute you, who revile you. You have to forgive those who do evilly unto you, persecute you. You have to pray for your enemy. How many people ever pray for their enemy? How many churches ever have a day of prayer for their enemies or for our national enemies? Did you ever hear of it?

104 B 1954 Seattle Closed Class  
"How to Begin Meditation"

### **Search: "the highest prayer"**

#### **From *God the Substance of All Form***

... The highest prayer, the highest meditation, comes when we have entirely eliminated all preconceived opinions, thoughts,

forms, or names for God and have allowed ourselves to become receptive, saying, “Father, reveal thyself.”

*God the Substance of All Form*

Chapter 9 – “Nature of the Individual as Consciousness”

### From *The Early Years*

... Truth reveals that this divine mind is your mind, the one mind, the only mind, the universal mind, which is the mind of the individual. To rest in the consciousness of this truth is the highest prayer. To know that God is the mind of the individual is to include the universe in your prayer.

*The Early Years*

Chapter 9 – “The Mind of Christ Jesus”

### **Search: “prayer will be answered”**

#### From *I Stand On Holy Ground*

... God is spirit! When you go to God, seek anything you want, ask for anything you want, as long as it is not something material. Your prayer will be answered and when it is, it interprets itself on the outer plane as good.

*I Stand On Holy Ground*

Chapter 9 – “Cast Thy Bread on the Waters”

#### From **The 1961 Los Angeles Closed Class**

...When you sit down to pray, what is your motive? If your motive is to bear witness to God’s grace, your prayer will be answered. If your motive is to behold the reign of God on earth, your prayer will be answered—providing always your motive is a universal one, and that you are not aiming your prayer at Mrs. Jones or Mr. Brown or the Smith family, as long as you are not praying merely for your friends. “It profiteth

you nothing to pray for your friends, you, my disciples, must pray for your enemies.” In other words, your prayer must be a universal, or rather a desire to behold good universally.

395 A 1961 Los Angeles Closed Class  
“The Temple or Sanctuary”

## **Search: “we look out upon the world”**

### **From The 1954 Honolulu Closed Class**

... Spiritual demonstration only comes when we have risen above the human good and realized, “I am not a good human or a bad human. Christ is my identity!” Or when we look out upon the world and stop seeing good men and women and bad men and women, and recognizing Christ alone as the reality of being. Then are you in tune with cosmic law—only then!

86 A 1954 Honolulu Closed Class  
“Fifth Chapter of Matthew”

## **Search: “prays for the enemy”**

### **From *The Joel Goldsmith Reader***

... There is an entirely different attitude among those persons who follow the Christ-way of life. To them it is normal and natural to love their neighbors as themselves for they have evolved out of the self-preservation state of consciousness. They have come to a place in their development that can be described as Christ-consciousness. This is the consciousness that normally and naturally prays for the enemy and forgives seventy times seven. This consciousness has no trace of revenge or punishment, of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. If at any time we turn to God to fulfill a desire, even a good one, we have not yet spiritualized our consciousness

because spiritual consciousness is a consciousness that gives no power to anything or anybody. It does not need a God-power. This is not doing away with God: it is a recognition that God is; it is a complete relaxing in God.

*The Joel Goldsmith Reader*  
“An Idea Whose Time Has Come”

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