

The Now Activity of the Christ

1962 Glendale Open Class

Tape 456A

By Joel S. Goldsmith

Good evening.

Spiritual living leads us step by step, for out of the spiritual path through which we enter the life of spiritual living, leads us ultimately to that place described by Paul. *"I live, yet not I. Christ liveth. Christ liveth my life. The Spirit of God, the Christ of God that dwelleth in me, liveth my life."* In spiritual living, there are no accidents. There are no chances. There are no accidental events of any nature. And therefore, there is nothing accidental about our being here, because your being here and mine is actually the activity of the Christ made manifest. It could not be otherwise in spiritual living. I might say it this way, that the Spirit that has brought this message of the Infinite Way to human consciousness guides, governs and protects my every footstep. In finances, every inch of the way. And therefore, wherever I am, it is because the activity of the Christ that dwelleth in me has brought me; but since the activity of the Christ must cover every action of my experience, it means that all those who are brought into the realm of my consciousness must likewise be brought there by the activity of the Christ in their consciousness, because we have but one Consciousness. There is but one Consciousness. There is but one spiritual awareness, and those who are receptive and responsive to it are one in that Consciousness.

Now, the activity of the Christ is always fruitful, productive, of harmony, of peace, of joy, of abundance. Yes, let us accept the words of the Master Who revealed that it was His will, that is, the will of the Christ, or His mission, to do the will of the Father. And the will of the Father was the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead, the forgiving of the sinner, the feeding of the hungry. Therefore, we may rightly say, that the activity of the Christ, still is healing, still is providing the bread, meat, wine and water of life. And so it is that the Christ that has brought us here together, has brought us for this purpose: that the will of the Father may be manifest in our experience. We would not be here together in this one place or one Consciousness if it were not that we are already in and of the One Consciousness. And therefore, the activity of the Christ is functioning in each and every one of us actually *as* the Consciousness of each and every one of us.

And this is the goal of spiritual living. This is the ultimate attainment. *"I can do all things through Christ, or I live, yet not I. Christ liveth my life."* And so, at this moment, you too must

be realizing within yourselves that it was the activity of the Christ that led you to this temple of God. Remember, we are in an edifice that has been dedicated to the service of God. We are in the presence of a minister who has been ordained of God, ordained to heal the sick, ordained to forgive the sinner, ordained to meet the human needs of mankind. Therefore, we have been led to this temple of God. We have been led into the presence of ITS minister. We have been led into the very presence of the Christ that has ordained the minister and the temple.

Ordinarily, we think of going to church or going to a service or a lecture as if it were a human act, even that it might be an act of our own will. It really isn't. Certainly not when you are led to a temple of Truth, because, human instinct does not lead one in that direction. It is only when the activity of the Christ has touched an individual's consciousness, that they are led to Truth. The reason is that Truth is not an easy path to walk. Many still believe that in coming to Truth, they are going to find their human problems quickly met and then perhaps dangle on some kind of a 9th cloud. The heart has been eliminated, but I do not know quite what has taken its place. But this isn't really true, because, entering the spiritual path does and usually very quickly, eliminate the major problems, the major discords and inharmonies of our lives. But since this is not the goal of Truth, we have merely entered the spiritual path at this stage because now we must look forward to the overcoming of our human pleasures and human profits and human harmonies. All of this is based on the Master's revelation, that *"MY kingdom is not of this world."*

Think, as you study. Think as you enter this temple, not only the balance of this week, but for the years to come. Think when you enter any temple of Truth, on this statement: *"My Kingdom, the Christ Kingdom, the spiritual Kingdom, is not of this world."* And let this cause you to ponder what is the spiritual Kingdom, what is the Christ kingdom, what kind of life will I find there? On this point, the Master said, *"My peace give I unto you, but not as the world giveth."* This is another way of saying, My kingdom is not of this world. My peace I give you. My Peace! Christ peace. Spiritual peace, I give you, but this is not the peace of merely improved health or a doubled income or a better home. Oh, no. There is something else.

The title of one of the new books announced to you tonight is *The World is New*. This title was taken from the walls of the chapel at Stanford University. It is part of a verse selected by Mrs. Stanford personally. The author of it is unknown, but the full passage is this: *"The world is new to every soul when Christ has entered in."* Now the spiritual path of life is a life into which the Christ has entered. The spiritual life is a life which the Christ is living. The Christ that has entered the soul of an individual. So, when we ponder the idea of the spiritual life and then remember that a spiritual life is one into which the Christ has entered, the question arises, how may I receive this Christ? How may I fit myself for the entrance of this Christ into my consciousness, which is to make my world new? Be assured of this. The Christ does make our

world new. It does operate in the beginning to improve our humanhood. It gives us better health, a better sense of Supply, a greater love, a greater love for God, a much greater love for our neighbor, our far neighbor, as well as our near neighbor. More than this, when the Christ enters our consciousness, It reveals to us that our greatest function in prayer is to pray for our enemies, to learn how to forgive 70 times 7, how to resist not evil. Indeed, the Christ does create a new world for us, but first in the overcoming of our discords, secondly in the overcoming of even the things that we call 'good'. Not that there is any evil in our pleasures, our theatres, our dances. Not that there is any evil in our sports, but that with the entrance of the Christ into Consciousness, we are elevated above the need for these baubles, for these outer amusements, at least to such an extent that we are unable to enjoy the fruits of the Spirit. And here again, since My kingdom is not of this world and My kingdom is a very wonderful place to be, you realize at once that there must be a mode of life in My Kingdom worthy of our attainment. A mode of life that enables us gladly, not only to give up the pains of sense, but many of the pleasures of sense.

In fitting ourselves for the entrance of the Christ into our consciousness, we always turn to the Master for guidance, for instruction. And this we learn first of all: when you open your consciousness and you may do that in this moment, since we are never dealing with the future tense in Truth; we are never dealing with what you should do tomorrow, we are always dealing with the immediate 'NOW'. And so there is no need to put off until late tonight or until tomorrow, the opening of Consciousness for the entrance of the Christ. Or, if we have already experienced the Christ, we need not delay in opening ourselves to a deeper realization of the Presence. So that, we can act in the NOW, by opening our Consciousness to the entrance of the Christ.

But, in doing so, be sure, be very sure, that you do not have something in mind that you hope to attain by virtue of the Christ. In other words, be sure that you want the Christ, but only for the sake of the Christ, not for some purpose, not for some benefit or some gain, because this is the surest way to set up a barrier to Its entrance. In other words, we must have no goal beyond the attaining of the Christ. This is the meaning of the Master's passage, *"Take no thought what you shall eat, nor what you shall drink, nor what you shall put on. Seek ye the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. All of these things will be added unto you."* Therefore, take no thought for the added things or the things that you want added, but be very sure to drop all thought, and desire the Christ only for the sake of the Christ, that It may make your life new.

In what way, who knows? Sometimes it takes a business man or a housewife right out of their business and right out of their home and sets them out in a spiritual ministry. Sometimes, it brings forth art, literature, music from an individual who had no knowledge at all that these were buried within him. Again, the Spiritual path reveals a great secret that material living has

never discovered, and of course, never will. In material living, we are always seeking to add something to ourselves. We are always seeking happiness, seeking prosperity, seeking success, seeking love, seeking companionship. Dr. Jung said lately or rather it was published lately, that he said, "that what is wrong with the world is that it is seeking happiness, and happiness is not to be found. In the moment that we stop the search for happiness, it finds us." And I had a beautiful experience in my mail this morning when a student sent me a newspaper clipping from the Midwest, telling this story of Robert Frost, our great American poet. As a boy, he was a bobbin-boy in a cotton mill and in New England. And he had gone to Boston, 25 miles away, on some errand or other, and that day crossed the corner bookshop, a very well known one there and went into browse. And he found a copy of Francis Thompson's *The Hound of Heaven*. He read this poem and somewhere along the line of this poem, he read how Francis Thompson continuously ran away from God, always evaded God, always managed to be out somewhere until eventually, God overtook Francis Thompson. Actually, God was only able to overtake him when he fell in a gutter and slept. Then God could catch up to him, overtake him and rebuild his life - make his life anew. But this passage so affected Mr. Frost, that soon at the moment, the desire came to him to own this book. And he realized, that if he bought this book, he would not have fare to get back home, and home was 25 miles away. But Robert Frost bought that book - bought it and walked 25 miles home. And the continued reading of it, resulted in the focusing within himself of the great poetry that eventually began to flow forth from him; and this proved to be a turning point in his life.

Now I tell you this for this reason. The spiritual life reveals that the Kingdom of God is within you. The material life says that you must go out here and get, achieve, attain, do. The spiritual life says that Truth, all Truth, life, truth, love, harmony, peace, divine grace is within you. And you must open out a way for the imprisoned splendor to escape. Now, in Mr. Frost's case, he found that poetry was entombed within him. And this particular experience enabled to him to open his consciousness so that the poetry that stored up in him, the beauty, the harmony, the grace, that was stored up in him, the love, the joy and the peace that was stored up in him, could flow out in the form of poetry.

So it has been the experience on the spiritual path that you must begin by understanding that the Kingdom of God is within you. You are not going to gain your desire by chasing it in the outer world or searching for it or seeking for it. You are not even going to find God by searching for Him. You are going to find God by resting in the assurance that the Kingdom of God is already within you and that all you have to do is open out a way for the imprisoned splendor to escape. There is no greater splendor, no greater Light than the Christ. And therefore, we can accept now, that the Christ is within and that it becomes our function to open our consciousness that the Christ may escape, may flow out from us in the form of harmony, healing, love, joy, beauty; that the form of these may be the spiritual life itself, or ministry. Or it may be some form of art, beauty, music. It may come forth in some greater

invention, discovery, but one thing is certain - that in opening your consciousness, that you must do so only for the realization of the Christ, with no thought in mind as to the form of harmony the Christ will reveal in you.

The Christ is the Light of the world, and therefore, the Christ will reveal through light these divine faculties and graces, abilities which are already established within you in the beginning, and will bring these into outer form and expression.

But to attain this, let us forget this world. Let us forget the peace that could come to us with better health or more money or a better home. Let us forget anything and everything that pertains to this world and let us center our attention on My Kingdom; the peace that can come from My Kingdom, the joy that can come from My Kingdom, the beauty. When we speak of health and of harmony, when we speak of abundance, let us not translate this into terms of physical health or financial abundance. Let us keep our vision pointed toward the abundance of the beauties of Christ, the divine harmonies of Christ, the spiritual graces, the spiritual faculties and qualities. It is true that in turn, they will manifest outwardly in human good. Only we must be in the position of not seeking these, but seeking only the realization of this Christ, or Spirit of God that is within us.

In the spiritual life, there is only one Time. There is no past and there is no future. The past can never live again under any circumstance except as an activity of memory and if you will refuse to bring it up in your memory, you will find that the past is dead, your past glories as well as your past failures, your past sins, as your past purity. In this *Now* of which we speak it would be as wrong to glory in your past virtues as it would be to regret your past sins. Both the glories and the sins are gone and done. And there can be no return to them except as an activity of memory; and in the spiritual life, you will soon lose that. The future will never come because the only future that can ever come to us is an extension of *NOW*. It is what is transpiring in your consciousness *NOW* that will appear to you in the future that you call *tomorrow*. In other words, we are creating *tomorrow* *NOW*. There is no tomorrow that is going to come to us from outside somewhere. There is no tomorrow that can sneak up on us. The tomorrow that we experience is an extension of *NOW*, of this moment. If you open your consciousness in this moment to the realization of the Christ, tomorrow will be a continued activity of the Christ. If you persist in dwelling in memory on your virtues or your vices, tomorrow you will only be met by your past virtues and vices, and I can assure you, you can't live on them. You won't be able to buy food or clothing with your past virtues or your past vices.

It might deflate our ego a little bit to remember one of the pet sayings of the metaphysical world. "A practitioner is only as good as his last healing." And so you'll see how ridiculous it is to continue giving testimonies about the healings we performed last year or 10 years ago, when no one is interested in anything except the healings of this moment. So it is, you will find that

while there are some gossipers who would love to hash over some of our former sins, that the world in general, has no interest in our past, but a very great interest in what we are NOW. We especially, should be interested only in this second of time in which I am speaking and you are hearing, because it is this second of time that is going to determine your tomorrow. Tomorrow is an extension of your consciousness of this moment. And, a divine grace or truth received in your consciousness now will externalize itself in some moment of what you might call the future, but which isn't the future. It is but an extension of NOW. In the spiritual life, therefore, we do not dwell on the past if there are sins of omission or commission of the past, we repent of them. We repent of them in some moment of NOW, regret that they ever had to be, regret that we were ever an instrument for their expression. And then dismiss them. *"Neither do I condemn thee. Thy sins be forgiven thee. Only go and sin no more."* Let the past drop. But he could have gone on and said, "forget also your good deeds, of the past, because they cannot be relived." As a matter of fact, the good we do lives on forever. In effect, therefore, we need not dwell on it. We need dwell on NOW. *"NOW are ye the sons of God"*, and to abide in this truth makes it a continuing experience into all of the future.

The Master revealed clearly in His lessons on spiritual healing, that we are to abide in the Word and let the Word abide in us. This is the pattern of spiritual living: Abiding in the Word NOW. Be careful. Do not put off until tonight to think truth. Do not wait until you're ready to retire to think truth. This is the moment, the moment in which it enters your consciousness. Now! Here! You are in the temple of God to tabernacle with the sons and daughters of God, and therefore, it is in this instant that your consciousness must accept this truth. What truth? *"Ye are the temple of God." Ye are the temple of God. The place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Here where I am, God IS"* and the Voice of God whispers, *"Son, thou art ever with me and all that I have is thine."* Accept this truth in your consciousness now and it becomes a continuing manifestation and expression. Abide in this truth that *"I and my Father are One. Thou seest me, thou seest the Father that sent me."* Abide in this truth and this becomes the continuing experience because it is what you are entertaining in Consciousness now that constitutes your tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow.

Always in the Now, you are building what the world calls the future, but which you will understand to be but an extension of Now. Since the Christ dwelleth in you, remember, Infinity dwelleth in you. But let me give you one other word: The word, *Power*. Do you realize that it was the Christ Power that healed the sick? It wasn't a man, it was the Christ Power that healed the sick. It wasn't a man who forgave the sinner, it was the Christ Power that forgave the sinner. It was the Christ Power that multiplied the loaves and fishes. It was the Christ Power that walked over the waves of mortal error, mortal discords. It was the Christ Power that brought about resurrection and ascension. And just think of this, this Christ is embodied in you. This Christ is the Son of God in you, the Spirit of God that dwelleth in you. And it begins to

come into manifestation upon your recognition of it, upon your acknowledgment of it.
“Acknowledge Him in all thy ways.”

Acknowledge the presence of the Christ within you and then a miracle takes place. In your material life, power was outside of you: the power of climate, the power of weather, the power of infection. the power of boom times, the power of panic times, the power of peace times, the power of war times, the power of sin, the power of disease; all of these were out here acting upon you. And all of this ceases in the moment that you acknowledge “Christ dwelleth in me,” because now, all power is given unto you.

God gave man dominion over everything: in the earth, above the earth, and beneath. God gave man dominion through the Son of God which is in you. Why has the world been bereft of this power? Well, of course, the Hebrews have never acknowledged that the Messiah has come - the Christ. The Christians have acknowledged that Christ came for three years and went away. And they're waiting for the Second Coming. And therefore, both the Hebrews and the Christians are without a Christ; one waiting for the Christ, the other waiting for the return of the Christ, but both acknowledging an absence of the Christ. And here and now, in this very temple where it has been presented to you over and over and over again, let us repeat it and you acknowledge it: The Christ dwelleth in me.

God did not send us to earth without an indwelling Christ; or else it would be equivalent to turning us loose on earth, a world of howling lions. We have abandoned the Christ within us. The Christ has not abandoned us. We have abandoned the God of our Fathers. But God has not abandoned us. And, since nothing can happen to us except through our own consciousness, you cannot benefit by the presence of the Christ except by an acknowledgment within you, that Christ dwelleth in me.

Whatever it is to take place in your life must take place through the activity of your consciousness. The Master said, *“ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”* We say again today, you must know the Truth, that Christ dwelleth in you and that the function of the Christ in you is still to heal the sick, raise the dead, feed the hungry, forgive the sinner. Acknowledge Christ dwelleth in me. I can do all things through this indwelling Christ. There is no power outside of me to act upon me. Ah! Do not misunderstand. There is lots of power in the world to act on human beings, on those who have not acknowledged that Christ dwelleth in me. The moment that you have accepted the indwelling Christ, in that moment, the Christ liveth your life. You then find it to be a Presence that goes before you to make the crooked places straight. You now find that you are not living your own life exclusively, but that you have a partner, an invisible Partner, a senior Partner, a Partner of Power; not the power that goes out to destroy your enemies, not a power that goes out with the sword, not a power that acts as a general or a king. Ah, no. The power of the Christ that is within you is the still small Voice.

This was the mistake of the Hebrews. They expected their Messiah to be a General and a King and to go out with an army and set them free. And so, when the Messiah was revealed to them, they did not recognize that *"MY Kingdom is not of this world."*

God is not in the whirlwind. God is not in the sins of this world, or the diseases of this world. God is not out there in bombs. God is in the still small Voice. The activity of the Christ is made manifest on earth through the still small Voice which you hear. Whether or not you hear it audibly, this is of no importance. The point is, that at the moment of your acceptance of the Christ, your attention is turned inward, in here. Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth. And you begin to function as of this moment and in a continuing experience, always to turn within even if for a brief moment, just as an acknowledgment, that the Christ is within you.

And let it speak through its gentle Voice. Remember, when It speaks, the earth melteth. The enemies, the armies of the aliens, destroy themselves. The Christ doesn't go out to destroy armies. The Christ utters Its still small Voice and the enemy destroys itself. Whether the enemy is a person or a condition, it destroys itself - not by might, nor by power, but by this still small Voice.

So the spiritual life entails first the acknowledgment. Christ dwelleth in me. God has planted His Son within my consciousness. And, as of old, Its function is to go before and make the crooked places straight. Its function is to enlighten me, to teach me, to preach the Gospel to me. Its function is to be my bread, meat, wine and water. The source of my inspiration. And how is It to function? Through the still small Voice. This it is that enables us to live the life of 'Within-ness'. We acknowledge now that the Kingdom of All-ness is within me, and now I am not to be so busy out here in this world, although performing everything that is right for me to do. But not with concern, because now I know that the fruitage will come because of this inner Grace, this inner Stillness, this inner Peace.

As of now, so that it may be a continuing experience, realize that Life, your life, is to be lived by Grace, not by might, nor by power. You will still perform every function in your home, or business, or art or profession, but you will perform it with the understanding that there is a 'He' within you that performeth everything that is given you to do. Always you will live from the *within* to the *without*. Always you will live in a continued remembrance, Christ dwelleth in me. Let It perform its work. Let It go before me. Do not try to empower It. Do not try and make It work. You can't use the Christ. The Christ can use you. In those moments when you relax, when you rest in the assurance. Assurance? Assurance? Can't you hear It? *"I will never leave thee or forsake thee. I will be with thee unto the end of the world."* I am thy meat and wine and water. I am the resurrection.

Do you not realize that this *I* that you read in scripture is this Christ which was revealed to human consciousness 2000 years ago and has never left the earth and has always been available to every individual who could open his conscious to this and not believe this - that the Messiah hasn't come, or that we're waiting for the 2nd Coming.

God doesn't work in the past or in the future. God works only in the Now. Just think of - I was just trying to think what month of the year this was - I guess we're in April....just think now of what is being prepared in your bushes, in your trees, in your gardens; think of what is being prepared now that will only appear in May or June. April showers bring May flowers. The activity of God in the Now, functioning in the Now and continuing in the Now, brings forth now in May and June, the flowers and the fruits. Think only that the activity of God must be working in the Now. The activity of God is not going to bring us any fruits yesterday. God does not function in the past. The Christ does not function in the past or in the future. It is functioning now. And whatever appears in your garden or on your trees in the future is because of the activity of the Christ now.

Therefore, accept this as part of your life of spiritual living, that your recognition of the activity of the Christ now in you is that which will appear as the fruitage in your life next week, next month, next season, next year. You must at some particular moment of life, acknowledge the indwelling Christ and then continue to abide in that word; and you will find that if your particular life is barren at this moment, physically, mentally, morally, financially, it makes no difference. If your life has any barren spots, your recognition of the activity of the Christ NOW, will in this moment start your new crop in motion. And then it is only a matter of abiding in the Word and letting the word abide in you until the fruitage appears.

Every word of truth is not Truth itself. Every word of Truth is a seed of Truth. The Master told us of the three states of Consciousness: the barren soil in which these seeds will not bear fruit; the rocky soil which may accept this seed and develop it a little, but as soon as temptation comes, a strong wind or a tough problem, we give up. But then there is the fertile soil and these seeds of Truth which come to you from this platform; or the seeds of truth which you take from the book tables, from the minister, the practitioners, the teachers; these seeds of Truth, when taken into your consciousness and lived with.

Here is the proof of whether or not your soil is fertile. If you don't hear this word at all, or if it goes in one ear and out the other, your consciousness is barren, so far as truth is concerned. If, however, you hear this word, if you receive this word in your consciousness, and you find that late tonight, some part of this message returns to your consciousness, tomorrow, some word that has been said, some quotation that has been voiced, returns to you; if in your periods of meditation, you return and I'm speaking not only of the word that you are hearing in this hour

from this platform; but I'm speaking actually of every word of truth you have heard from this or any other platform; if this truth abides in you, if you ponder occasionally the truths that you hear; if you take your periods of meditation and remember again and again the truths that have entered your consciousness, then you are *fertile* soil and you may expect rich fruitage.

Abide in the word, let the word abide in you and you are on the spiritual path. And then you will discover that there's no such thing as a past, but that every moment of your present is a continuing experience into what the calendar calls the future.

You know, of course, that there is no such thing as one day ending and another day beginning. Those are just divisions that we make on calendars. But those of you who have been up until midnight some nights, can bear witness to the fact that there is no division at midnight, no division at 12 O'clock noon. It's just the same rhythm taking place all of the time and it's always NOW. It is always NOW in this Kingdom. And therefore, that which we have accepted now is the continuing experience of the Christ and the fruitage appears in its season.

You see, spiritual living really means living in the Word of God. We no longer live by bread alone. We no longer live by bread alone! We on the spiritual path, we eat our bread. We eat all kinds of food, whatever is set before us, for it is nothing that goes into the mouth that defiles. It is what we are entertaining in Consciousness. We live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, and therefore, on the spiritual path, we are living by every seed of Truth, every word of Truth that has been planted in our consciousness and that we permit to dwell there, so that we dwell in it and permit it to dwell in us and their fruit. The spiritual life is living not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Every word of Truth and the spiritual life is not seeking a power to do anything for you in this life. The spiritual life has nothing to do with the using of a power. The spiritual life is an acknowledgment of a life by Grace, not by might and not by power, but by the still small Voice; not using *IT*, letting *IT* use *us*.

Thank you.