

Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 19
An Unedited Lecture
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JESUS CHRIST

Greetings in the name of God and Jesus Christ. Blessed are you, my friends, blessed is this hour. My dear friends, to most of you I have talked now for a few months, and I have not mentioned as yet Jesus Christ, who He is, what He has done. At this time of year, when you are celebrating the birth of Christ, I will choose this subject as an appropriate one.

It is not only on this earthly sphere but in the spiritual worlds as well that the light of Christ is spreading. You may say, "But in the spiritual world, there is no time," and this is true. Yet, as difficult as this is to explain to you about this period, only drawn out much longer than on earth, every year, according to your human year, after a certain regular period, let us say, this light of Christ is coming up with renewed force in remembrance of the greatest deed that has ever been accomplished. This light is so strong and so penetrating and so glorious that you have no possible way to imagine. There is such bliss, such rejoicing, such happiness, and such wisdom coming from this light! For wisdom and light are one. You say it in your human language: enlightenment! In the spiritual world, light and knowledge and light and love are one and the same things. And this light, at this period, penetrates even down to the deepest spheres of gloom, at least to some small degree, into the worlds of darkness. There may be just a gleam of it, just a sheen, just a glimpse of light. Yet there is this influx, and at this period, when these beings living in the world of darkness encounter this light, their reaction is different. Those who are ready to advance spiritually will welcome this light; they will follow it. Others who are not that far yet will cringe away from it in extreme pain, for it is very painful for them, a pain they cannot stand. And therefore a human being who has succeeded to bring out this light within -- for it is one and the same light -- will be protected against creatures of the world of darkness.

Now, who is Christ? There are some Christian religions who claim He is God. This is not so. For he himself has said, as you can find out from the Holy Scriptures, that he is not God. He is not the Father, the Creator. There are some who say Jesus was just a wise man like a few others history has known, a sage, a great teacher with great wisdom, but he is not more than a few others who have lived at other times in other countries. This is wrong too. I am telling you truth, my friends, whether you want to believe it now or not. Jesus, the man, was the incarnation of the Christ. And this spirit is the highest, the most exalted of all created beings. He is the first direct and inborn creation of God. His substance is the same as the substance of God. All of you have some of this substance, that which I call the higher self or the divine spark, that which has to come out through spiritual development gradually. But no other created being has this substance to quite the same degree as Christ. And there is the difference.

I can see again and again that human beings think or feel: "Why He? If He is the Son of God, so are we sons of God. Why should He be better? Or more exalted or higher? Why? This is not just." These thoughts and feelings are often lurking in the soul of man even if he does not dare to

make that thought conscious. In this very same thought lies the germ of the fall of the angels. This very thought, this very attitude started once long before the material earth existed and caused the coming into existence of disharmony and of evil. Certainly, none who had ever thought so realized at the time the danger of such an attitude or realized what lay in it, realized that in this, let us call it jealousy, actually lies a lack of faith in God, in his capacity of love. For even though God created in His first Son the highest of all beings and gave most of His substance to Him, if you will have the trust and faith the Creator deserves, you will not think that this is unjust or that you will lack anything. Oh, nowadays people do not go so far in thinking through these thoughts, but that slight feeling of resistance against Christ in a number of people represents the germ of the fall, the germ of evil. This is the way it all started.

In what way has Jesus Christ saved mankind? In what way was His deed the greatest? What was the purpose of His life on earth, of His one time incarnation? The purpose of His life was not only to spread His teachings. True and beautiful as these teachings are, they could be found elsewhere too -- perhaps in another form, nevertheless basically the same. So this was certainly not the only purpose. The second purpose of His life, and still not the main and most important one, was through His life and death He showed symbolically what the course of development, or the stages of same, should be for man, for each and every one who wants to regain the kingdom of heaven. Testing, trials, remaining faithful to God in times of adversity, the crucifixion of the ego, of the personal ego with all its vanity and self-will -- this was symbolized by the body of Jesus, and the resurrection of His spirit signifies the life eternal of bliss and happiness of the spiritual being of each individual after the ego has been crucified. This cannot happen otherwise than through pain. But even this part of His task is, as I said, not the main and most important one. The two mentioned here can be considered as by-lines or accompanying purposes to the main purpose He had to fulfill. I will at a future time go into greater detail in what way His main task meant salvation, for He was the Messiah! But I want to say only this to you now. If He should have failed, another spirit would have tried it, for it was not absolutely certain beforehand that He would fulfill the task, but He was the natural choice, the logical conclusion, if I may say so. Someone had to come to earth and go through all these sufferings completely alone, at certain times bare of all divine protection, and resist all evil, all temptation out of His own free will. For in this way alone could the spiritual laws continue unbrokenly so that in justice, even towards the very forces of evil, each individual could find its way back to God. God is the power, and with this power He could certainly have done anything, also breaking His own laws. But that would have meant that a great number of creatures who were then not ready to find their way back at the period such a decision would have been made by God would have been permanently separated from God and eternal life of bliss. That might have included any one of you. Only by the vast and elaborate plan of salvation is it possible that all, to the very last of the fallen creatures, can at one time find their way back to God. This is difficult to understand for you now with these few words I am giving you presently, but I promise you in the future I will go more into detail about all this. But this should suffice for the present to give you an idea of how extremely grave and serious the task was. For only in this manner will no one ever be able to say God is not just, or the greatest. No one will be able to say that God has used this power to violate His gift of free will to each and every individual. And this could only have happened through the fulfillment of such a task, for, thus, no free will is broken, no power used unduly. And Jesus Christ has proven this utterly.

The natural question may come up, "Can we find and reach God; can we attain perfection only through Jesus Christ?" The answer is yes and no, my friends. It is one of those apparently

paradoxical cases where both answers are correct. And I will try to explain how I mean this. You can reach a stage of development through every one of the great religions, also the non-Christian ones, in which you can experience absolute truth. And no spirit of the world of God will ever tell you to leave your church or your temple or your faith. For if you have found what you need in happiness, in spiritual food in the faith you are accustomed to, remain there. Enough of basic, fundamental truth, enough of what you need for your spiritual development is contained, as I said, in all the great religions. And it is only up to you to find out what these truths are that you need for your personal development and put it into practice. When I speak of satisfaction of your faith, I do not mean that it satisfies your surface conscience. That is not enough. It has to satisfy your spirit, your higher self, and this higher self is very demanding. But if you follow the teachings of your religion whereby you learn and do the one thing that really matters, self-knowledge and self-purification, utter self-honesty -- without this, no purification is possible -- then the religion into which you belong or which you have chosen will satisfy your spirit. This purification, this crucifixion of your lower self is the one and all-important thing that matters, and wherever you find the necessary help, guidance, and inspiration to accomplish this does not matter so much even if you, for manifold reasons, do not recognize Christ in a religious affiliation. By self-purification alone, you will raise your consciousness to such a degree that you will be open for truth in all its aspects concerning the part Christ played in the history of creation or anything else for that matter. So in this respect, the answer is no to the question whether it is a condition that you have to recognize Jesus Christ right now and can only reach God through Him. The perception of absolute truth regarding any question can, in other words, only happen through such a process of self-purification -- and, alas, few people are doing this -- whether recognition of some factors still comes during this life or afterwards. Anyone going through this process of self-purification, difficult as it is, will prepare the ground to be able to receive and experience absolute truth in all its facets, whether some of this still takes place during the incarnation or, due to certain circumstances, afterwards. But the ground has to be prepared, and this means perfection through purification. As long as there is, for instance, a certain stubbornness in the soul, regarding anything, not only this subject, absolute truth, or experiences and perception of it, is impossible. For this stubbornness and self-will is exactly that which hinders you to raise your consciousness, as each imperfection is a hindrance. I cannot stress emphatically enough that only he who crucifies his lower self is ready for pure truth, concerning anything in connection with the creation and the divine. And the fact that Christ is the Messiah, that Christ is the most exalted of all created beings, is a very important part of the great truth and of the history of creation or of the facts as they really and truly are! whether you are able and willing to recognize them yet or not.

But that does not mean, my friend, that you should pray to Christ, no. Only God, the Creator should be prayed to. But what God expects from you and what is part of perfection and development, at least from a certain degree on, is gratefulness to the person without whose deed no one could come back into divine light, without whose deed the stream back to God would have been broken for all creatures not ready at the time such a decision would have been taken by God. At some point, the time will come, even if some of you are not ready for it as yet, even if there are still other things to accomplish, which, as I said, can be done in any religion, or no organized religion for that matter, when this gratefulness for the greatest deed, without which you would be lost, will pervade you and will be given to the One to whom it is due. And that is God's will. You should not disregard Christ so busily. You should think about all this even if you do not recognize "officially" the Christian religion. As all religions have enough truth contained to enable your purification, by the same token, in all religions are also errors. So it is important for you only to follow that which

your spirit demands, which your higher self is longing for. The rest will come by itself. But that does not change the fact that you should open your hearts and not completely put the one person aside to whom you owe most next to God. I hope you have understood me. I hope you do not interpret these words differently than exactly what I have said.

There need never have been a split between Judaism and Christianity. This was never meant by God and by the spirit world. And if this has happened, it is the fault of man. You have made these names and labels to which you attach a special implication. For us, Judaism and Christianity, and this and that, do not mean anything. When Christ was born as Jesus at that particular time, among these particular people, it had its good reasons, and it was meant that one and the same truth should expand, should grow, and there should never have been this splitting. Splitting is chaos; splitting is the nature of the fall of the angels, or the result of it with all its miseries and hatred. Splitting is the separation from God, and this initial tragedy, taking place long before the earth existed, is repeating itself again and again in the course of time until this disease will, at one time, be cured forever. Union with God, the aim and goal, is the contrary of splitting and separation. And if this splitting between Judaism and Christianity occurred after the life of Jesus, it is again the fault, grown out of the same bad root of the initial splitting, of man. There should have been a oneness between Judaism and Christianity, no matter what you call it, one wholeness, one completion. Therefore since Christ represents such an important part of your returning to God and thus deserves your personal gratefulness, some contact with Him -- for He is indeed the best friend you could ever have, your strongest helper -- you will not be able to reach God without Him in the very last analysis. And in this respect, the answer to the question, whether you can reach God only through him, is yes. For the constant denying of these facts would imply a stubbornness of your heart that is a symptom of imperfection, and as long as any imperfection is alive within you, you cannot unite with God.

And now, my friends, I want to say to each one of you, truly, no matter what religion you belong to, open your hearts, your minds. Be broad-minded! Do not leave the faith you are accustomed to, as I said. That is not necessary unless you feel like it. But consider that what I have said to you may be true even if you do not believe that this is a spirit who talks to you, a spirit of the spirit world who has the knowledge and the insight that these are facts and not mere opinions as you on earth are able to have on these subjects. Even if you have these doubts -- and probably most of you here have still some of these doubts -- consider it may be that way after all, and that what your fathers and forefathers or the people you trust in and who influenced you in your life have said may not be entirely right. Certainly they have some truths, as truth exists everywhere, but no one group among mankind has all the truth. And you, as a spiritually searching person, open the doors for truth, no matter from what side it may present itself to you. Do not hold on in stubbornness. Do not believe that this means to "give in" or that it may mean to show "lack of character," my friends. What an immature notion this is! This is not the question here at all! The question remains always, what is true? For God is truth, as well as wisdom and love. And if you deny truth for any silly, stubborn, and childish notion, you thus deny God, at least in one aspect of your personality. And this is the only question that counts. Nothing else ever does, and can only be part of man's lower self even if clothed with apparently high sounding motives and coatings.

And now, my friends, I want to bring some of your messages. This is a little different. However, I will not point out or name the persons to whom the messages are directed, and there are many good reasons why I am not doing so. But if you listen carefully, also with your soul, you, to

whom its message is addressed, and you alone will know, "This regards me." Perhaps some parts of this message may at first be a little confusing, but if you search carefully within yourself -- and this you should do because you may need just that! -- you will find out after a while that it makes sense after all.

I want to say to one friend here, you are hurt, deeply hurt. And you are hurt in real sadness. There is, fortunately, no bitterness in you. You have been wronged, and this wounds you deeply. But I will say to you, bear up, lift your soul to the hurt, for a hurt taken without bitterness, without resentment, is wonderful medicine for the soul. It will never harm your soul if you take it right and do not permit yourself to let bitterness creep in. It will make you stronger, and after the darkness has disappeared again, there will be new joy in your heart. And the sun will shine again for you too! Do not think God has forsaken you, do not think you are alone. It is a necessary tunnel through which you have to go, my friend. These words will give you a little light to help you carry your burden. I think I have been understood.

And now I address my words to another friend, you are also hurt. But with you, the hurt is different. You will feel a certain heaviness in you concerning your hurt. And if you search further what this heaviness is and if you are entirely honest with yourself, you will find out that you are resentful. And you will find out that if you dig a little deeper, there was a cause within you. Of course, there is always a cause, also in the first case I have mentioned. But in the second case, the cause is easier to find, much easier, if you are willing to look yourself squarely in the face, my dear. And this is the only way you can come out of this a stronger and better person. As long as you do not learn the cause within you, you will have to experience similar incidents, perhaps in different forms, again and again. For you, this is not the only way to handle this problem. Find the answer within yourself. If you really want to do that, you will be helped if you cannot succeed alone.

To another friend, I want to say, there is a spirit here who is greeting his wife. He has long been expected, that is, a sign has been expected from him. And he gives his wife the following message. He is happy in the spirit world. He is working, studying very hard, but in a state of happiness. And he is learning a great deal. It was not too difficult for him to get adjusted here, for he has always been open for spiritual truth. But still, he has many things to learn, to readjust, to recognize within himself and therefore also in connection with his last life. Things that did not seem important to him or you then, have taken a different meaning now, and on the other hand, things that were important are not so very important in themselves from his new angle of vision. And he asks his wife three things. In the first place, he asks her forgiveness for all the little and unavoidable hurts in a lifetime. Oh, I know, you will say, you have forgiven, you do not even think of these little things now. But these "little things," being symptoms of something more important in the soul of a being, have taken a certain importance for him now. Therefore he is very much concerned with things you may have forgotten on the surface but which may have left some trace in your subconscious. The second thing he asks you is, on the other hand, you may occasionally again feel "I should have done this or not done that." And this is bad too. All these self-tortures that you could have made him happier in this respect or another should be stopped, not only on the surface conscience, but deep within. It has become more seldom recently, but there are still times when you think about him that such thoughts or feelings are in you. The third thing he asks you is to take the bandage off your eyes. So much would be easier for you. Take the blindfolds off. He cannot ask you enough to do that.

Another message for another friend is you have searched for a long time. You have gone this way and that way, my friend. You have found many things and learned many things. And in spite of this, there is no real peace in your heart yet. But you have also accomplished some things in your development, and this is why God is helping you further, showing you another way still. Do not reject the hand that is held out to you. For only in this way can you come out and really be in light and shed all the darkness that still enfolds you, whether you admit it or not. This is the only way, my dear friend! It can only go through the recognition of the self and the crucifixion of the lower self. This is the only way, and you cannot do it quite alone. No one is that strong. Do not miss out on this incarnation! Do not miss out, friend! You have all the trump cards in your hands, if I may use this expression. You have accomplished so much. Do not let it happen that one day you will say, "Why, oh, why didn't I do it?" It is not half as bad and as difficult as you think. Give yourself up to it. Please! This is an urgent call.

And I have another message for a dear friend whose heart is full of joy. And I will say, do not let yourself be disappointed if things are not quite the way you wanted them to be. Even that is part of learning, even that is necessary. There is some hidden knot in it. If you go through it properly, you will find out why. But everything is well with you.

And for all the other friends here, to whom I have not given special messages, personal messages by which they were touched, I say there is a dear one in the spirit world right near you now. There are many spirits here tonight who do not usually find their way to this circle. They were guided here by their guides or teachers or guardians in order to learn and in order to bring love to their dear ones. So each one of you will feel who it is if you become quiet within and let yourself feel. You will thus know who it is. There is also one father here who wants to be particularly mentioned, and he wants to tell his child that he is infinitely better. It is not as dark anymore. And he is thanking his child. Many creatures are here in this room, not only those dear ones I have just mentioned, friends or relatives of yours, but angels of God are particularly blessing this evening so that each one of you may go home with a gift from the spiritual world, a spiritual gift that should grow within your soul. But you have to tend it, you have to nurse it; then it will become something strong and beautiful that will give you a new direction and hold in your life, a hold that has been missing so far.

And now I will turn to your questions, my dear ones.

QUESTION: The question I intended to ask was already answered by the lecture. May I ask instead, half of the world, perhaps even more than half of the world, is non-Christian. Will they one day include Christ?

ANSWER: Well, I have actually answered that in my lecture. You see, as I said, every being can find perfection, personal perfection, through any religion. Of course, there are people who hold on to a religion, either because it satisfies their surface conscience and they thus tell themselves that they have done their duty, but they really are spiritually lazy, or because they do not think independently at all and are just sheep in the herd. We will not discuss these people here; they can be found in any faith, Christian or other. But if a person has a serious desire for truth and development, but does not give vent entirely to the higher self, but lets his lower self influence the higher self's strivings, he may do a half effort. That is, he will be spiritually active in a way, for instance by following certain rules of his faith or by meditating about beautiful abstract things

whereby he receives a certain lift. But he will not do the one and most important thing necessary for real spiritual growth, namely purification! No matter what faith he has, if he is not doing that, this work remains to be accomplished in a future incarnation. However, he who does that, regardless of what faith he has, will eventually come to a state of consciousness in which he is finally open for truth in all respects. If someone dies as a Buddhist, for instance, and has had little or no opportunity to hear about the truth of Christ, but if he has not run away from himself, but has gone through this process of tearing down all masks and coating and uncovering all false motives, he will be open in the spirit world for anything that is part of the great truth, whether it confirms his past beliefs or not. But someone who is going the path halfheartedly, and imperfection remains, let us say in the form of stubbornness, he will come into the spirit world and remain in a sphere where he has to learn in what respect he is still imperfect, whatever this fault may be. And any fault is in direct relationship to absolute truth, concerning this or other things. And until that being, whether it takes one or a hundred incarnations and the purifying states in the spirit world in between, until this perfection of the soul is reached, truth, in direct relationship to the lack of perfection, will be hidden. But when this perfection is reached, all bars will be down. The question is not that you have to accept so and so before you reach the kingdom of heaven. That is a very childish and primitive idea. The question is this. If you cannot be open for what is, there must be something within you that is still imperfect. And this imperfection has to be overcome. Is this clear?

QUESTION: Is lack of imagination considered a lack of character in the spiritual world, and what can one do to try to overcome it?

ANSWER: It depends very much in what way this lack of imagination manifests itself. From the spiritual point of view, perfection includes, of course, also imagination. You can train imagination too, as you can train anything. If you are really interested enough in putting yourself in the place of another and you meditate about it, asking God for the insight and full understanding as much as is possible for you, and if you keep on doing this constantly, then your imagination for others will grow. But if it concerns just artistic imagination, not everyone must have it. For each person has a different task and different talents. But a certain kind of imagination for your fellow creatures is a necessary by-product of perfection and development. And therefore it should be trained.

QUESTION: Is there a way to grasp the fourth and fifth dimension? -- for us average people here, I mean.

ANSWER: There is certainly a way, my dear friend, but never through words. Words can never convey that, only through development, personal development, the personal development I am always referring to. If you raise your level of consciousness to such a degree, you will feel and grasp it, and as all spiritual truth, divine truth, you will feel it, you will sense it, but you have no way of expressing it to others. This is the only way it can be grasped.

QUESTION: I want to ask a question about that splitting. I understand it was due to the free will of man...

ANSWER: No, the free will of the spirit, my dear, long before man existed.

QUESTION: But why was it permitted by the omnipotent God that so much suffering resulted from the splitting up to this day, including Jesus Christ Himself?

ANSWER: If God would not have permitted it, there would have been no free will. And a spiritual creature can never be Godlike and one with God, in union with God as an unfree creature. It is worthwhile to go through the suffering since the suffering has been by the free will of the individual spirit; it is worthwhile to go through it in order to be one with God. But as a forced measure, an unfree creature could never be one with God.

QUESTION: It says, "By their fruits you shall know them," but how can we discriminate who is on the spiritual path?

ANSWER: This, my dear, touches a very personal question with you. And I think we will discuss that in our private session more fully and more personally. Now I will say only this. It is mainly intuition. I could give you many answers that would be clues, but this would not settle this for you because the question is in you whether it might not be fake or lies, and that is exactly what you are afraid of. One person may tell all the things you know are requisites on the path, but still this may be merely intellectual knowledge. Another person may be so modest and not say anything and may be much more sincerely on the path than the former person. The truth can only be perceived by the love, the sincerity, the genuineness, the harmony, the profound joy of life that emanate from a person, and, of course, a certain wisdom -- not the intelligence, but the wisdom and the modesty. All this you must judge with your heart as much as with your brain. But as long as there is fear in you, your heart cannot judge. So that question will answer itself for you in the future.

QUESTION: You said that the spirit of Christ was created as the highest. Am I to understand that this was an exception and that it was created that high and that He did not have to go through development and incarnations?

ANSWER: Never. No, but in this respect Christ is not the only one. There are many other beings in the spirit world who have not gone through the cycle of incarnation. Some of them have never been incarnated; some of them came freely once to fulfill a certain mission. Not every being in existence has to go through life on earth. Only those who were included in the so-called fall of the angels. And Christ was certainly not one of them. Christ was, as I said, the first creation of God, the most direct. The only difference between God and Christ is that God is the Creator and Christ is created. But otherwise God and Christ are one in substance and love and wisdom.

QUESTION: Did Christ retain in memory as a human being what he had to do and who He was? Did He have a realization of all that?

ANSWER: Certain flashes came to Him later, but not all. If everything would have been completely open to Him, His task would not have been so difficult and so tremendously admirable. But part of it He had to know, and that He learned gradually.

QUESTION: How can one reconcile the word of Jesus when He said, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

ANSWER: That is just the proof that Jesus did not know the entire task with all its implications as a man. He had to go through this darkness, through these terrible trials without knowing everything, as much as He did know otherwise. There is also proof in these words that Jesus Christ was not God, as some claim. And furthermore it is proof that Jesus, as a man, was not entirely aware of what He had to go through, why and what was the exact purpose of it all. Exactly in this very uncertainty lay the difficulty of his trials and hardships, and this was part of the plan, part of the task. His suffering was so intense because His intellect did not know all the facts. If He would have known beforehand the entire picture, it would have been much easier and the element of free will would not have been as strong. He had to prove that His trust in God was complete, as difficult as it was. With that, He did not only set an example to others, but it was, as I said, the most important element of the task He came to fulfill, namely the salvation.

QUESTION: I know you can't answer it now, but you have never talked about the fall of the angels here in our group, and many don't know about it.

ANSWER: I said I will talk about it at a later time. I do not know how soon. There is a very good reason if I do not choose this subject right away, but I promise that I will talk about it.

With these words, my friends, I will leave you tonight. As I have said, there is a present, a spiritual present for each one of you here. But you have to take the trouble, so to speak, to unwrap it. And this takes a little trouble. But if you do so, you will be richly rewarded, and the little trouble it takes is the key that permits you to make ample use of this gift. You will find that God gives much more generously than you can possibly imagine, ever! -- and not only to my friends who are present here, but to all my friends away who have received such a present, those who could not come tonight and will read my words and those dear friends of mine over the ocean who are such faithful fighters on the path of perfection. They are also included.

And so, my dear ones, try in these days, in honor of the Savior, to think that he has saved you personally, that without Him you could not penetrate the darkness that still separates you from your goal. Try to develop a little personal gratefulness, for He deserves it. Go in peace, be in God!

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