

Pathwork Guide Lecture No. 258
An Unedited Lecture
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PERSONAL CONTACT WITH JESUS CHRIST; POSITIVE AGGRESSION; THE REAL MEANING OF SALVATION

Joyfully I bring divine blessings. Everyone here can be touched by them in a very vital way. You need to raise your consciousness to this reality. You need to remove the barriers that prevent you from perceiving the Lord's presence in your life, His love for you.

Let me start this lecture with some words on this subject. Even though you have strengthened your faith and your realization that this world is infused with God, few have as yet made personal contact with Him. He came to become human, so as to be always close to you in a very personal loving way. For most believers, God is a much less personal, a much more vague and general experience. And you know that you can experience only that which you can conceive of and believe.

If you seriously long, pray for, and search for a realization of Jesus Christ's personal love for you, the answers will come forth. Perhaps the first answers will not be recognized as such. They may have something to do with specific barriers that prevent you from this experience, this reality. It may be new (or again old) material on your path, in your work that needs to be done for your purification process. But these are answers. And once the barriers begin to go, you will experience what it means to feel Jesus Christ's personal love for you.

You are also involved in a vicious circle here. When you feel unworthy, unlovable, unacceptable, it is impossible to believe that Christ can love you personally, regardless of your present state of development. So you need to forge ahead and reestablish your self-acceptance and self-respect. Yet this can be done only when you recognize and oust real, justified guilt, without annihilating yourself in the process. I have discussed this many times. The total self-condemnation that so often accompanies insight into your lower self obstructs the cleansing and liberating process that makes room for self-love in the healthy sense.

It is also true that without at least a slight awareness that you are personally precious and beloved to the personified God -- Jesus Christ -- it is extremely difficult to accept your guilts, to find your real value. So what you need is a continuous double approach: your self-search, your determination to face all of your lower self, to understand all of your being with compassion and realism, on the one hand; and, on the other, your direct prayer and deep desire to feel Jesus' presence near you, His concern for you, his deep, abiding interest in your life, in every smallest detail of your life.

As you thus proceed on your path, the glory that will come to you cannot be put into words. Nothing else is comparable with the knowledge that you are personally loved, cared for, never forgotten, and always protected by the Lord, no matter what momentary circumstances are.

However, this total fulfillment can only come as you totally surrender to the will of God, without any reservations, in every large and small aspect of your life and your being. This has so often been discussed by us, and yet how difficult it still is for a number of you. You still hold back. You still have your little corners of holding out, of believing your self-will knows better than God what makes you happy. Yet Jesus Christ is here to give you eternal life, safety, and total fulfillment if you only trust Him and give yourself to Him. You will be sustained with all the juices of life and joy in a constant flow of renewal.

All your fears and your distrust of others cannot be eliminated unless the total surrender to the Highest is a constantly practiced and renewed act within yourself. For you cannot subsist alone. No creature can. All created beings hang together on a chain of interdependence -- physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When the weight of dependence is put where it belongs -- on God, on His personalized aspect who is personally near you -- then you can create a healthy center of gravity anchored deep within your soul, for that is where He is to be found. His presence merges with your higher self, you truly become one. Thus all interdependence with others will be free from neurotic dependency. It will be healthy interdependence that will give you clear vision, the ability to adjudge realistically where your trust is justified and where not, and therefore a healthy relationship to your leaders and your followers. Without that proper gravity in God, you will always be confused, live in fear, distrust your judgment, become either too distrustful in the wrong place and/or too gullible in the wrong place.

So, my beloved friends, make it your business now to deepen your desire for personal contact with Christ. Strengthen your commitment to Him to give over all of your life to Him in the total trust that He deserves. Your human fears can never be assuaged otherwise. I spoke in a lecture about one such basic existential fear that all human beings share whether they are aware of it or not. This is the fear of annihilation of consciousness -- which is feared to take place after the body separates from the spirit self. To no longer exist is the most insidious fear that must be met and dealt with. Only through total surrender to God can this be done. Only through removing your impurities can this be done. Only through no longer denying, but experiencing your various pains can this be done.

The Creator has filled your earth sphere with signs, with symbols that speak loud and clear that nothing is ever lost, that nothing can ever disappear or disintegrate into nothingness. These symbols will be recognized by you as you awaken. This awakening depends utterly on your surrender to the Creator and to His personalized presence in your life -- Jesus Christ.

One such beautiful symbol is the sea. Just observe the ebb and flow of the sea. The water flows forward in great masses, only to recede and diminish. Where does this receding water go? It seems to disappear, to disintegrate, to no longer exist. From your vantage point on the shore, where there was water before, there is none now. But you know that this water does not disintegrate into nothingness. It continues to be, to exist in the greater pool, never losing its unique quality as this specific sea water. (All sea waters are somewhat different, in spite of their similarity. Their salt content may vary, as well as many other qualities of which mankind knows nothing as yet). So the "individuality" of the ebbing, disappearing sea water is always maintained.

Could it be different with individual consciousness? Could individual consciousness go through all the painstaking steps of development and cleansing itself, of growing and expansion, without rhyme or reason? The more you establish your own inner connections between your life experiences and your attitudes, the deeper you understand that the former are not arbitrary coincidence, but stand in direct relationship to you, to who you are now, and to what you express and what you deliberately or inadvertently create. Awareness of these connections in the microcosm of your personal existence inevitably also makes the universe comprehensible in an entirely new way. You must then see that all has purpose, that nothing is for naught, that there is a magnificent design at work whose purpose is to bring everything to perfection, to bliss, to oneness -- and therefore to ineffable peace. You can no longer doubt the design behind events when you explore your microcosm painstakingly, honestly, and courageously. And when you see the fabric of wisdom, purpose, goal-directedness of all that comes to pass, you simultaneously recognize the great spirit of the Creator at work.

When you work with the aid of the personalized God, who is always available to you, always responsive when you reach out for His help, you will gradually establish connections that were totally obscure before. Nothing could be more painful and more frightening than the disconnectedness between a painful event in your life and its inner cause. Its appearance seems rhyme and reasonless. To establish the causal connection is relief, release, liberation, and enrichment beyond description.

But there exists a certain rhythm that needs to be discovered, sensed, and accepted. Again I use the analogy of the sea. Ebb and flow function according to a very specific rhythm, a rhythm that has been established under higher orders. This rhythm is never broken. Only when specific upheavals, like earthquakes, tidal waves, or human destructive measures interfere is the rhythm temporarily disrupted. The sea is in crisis, as it were, but even this crisis conspires to reestablish its unique rhythm, its harmony with the rest of creation. The sea has the wisdom to follow this pattern. Man, with his often disruptive mind, makes himself too often insensitive to his unique rhythm pattern with which he needs to be in harmony.

So when you seek connections between event and your inner person, when you work for recognition of it and pray for help and the answer still fails to come, then you may be out of rhythm. You may have to use this waiting time to learn certain qualities within yourself that can only be learned in the time of ebb, never in the time of flow. The time element of ebb and flow of the sea, high tide and low tide, never coordinate exactly in equal time slots. Mostly one lasts longer than the other, if measured with earthly time. Often these time relationships change. It is the same way with the human being's rhythm. The time of fruition may come sooner in some areas, the time of waiting may last longer in other areas.

Sense your rhythm in all things. Feel your daily life in accordance with your personal universal rhythm pattern. It exists as definitively as you carry your life pattern within your soul substance. If you work, rest, play, live, move, and have your being in harmony with your unique rhythm pattern, you will live a much more fruitful, creative, joyful, and peaceful life. So much harassment and restlessness will fall off your burdened shoulders. This requires, again, a specifically raised consciousness to this phenomenon. You need to think about this concept, to begin with. You need to meditate that it exists. You need to stir up your imagination and feel into how it would feel to live a day in rhythm, as contrasted with your usual unconscious rhythmless existence. Once you can

visualize this difference, you can concentrate daily on it and ask your personal guidance to help you to focus on it and stay increasingly in your rhythm pattern.

When a painful personal event seems utterly disconnected from any personal cause or meaning after a comparatively long time of search and work, something in your rhythm pattern demands that you accept this as a rhythmic phenomenon. True, the rhythmic phenomenon is also determined by consciousness, that is, by underlying causes existing within the particular consciousness. But only when the rhythm pattern is respected, accepted, adhered to, and utilized in the most constructive way, will the rhythm be able to flow without disturbance and take its natural course. Doubt, rebellion, anger, belief in a meaningless universe that makes you suffer, are all destructive responses to the rhythm pattern that takes place, thereby delaying its natural flow. Equally disruptive is the self-rejecting attitude "I am so bad that I deserve to be punished this way."

You all know, you have all learned on this path, what a constructive response is. "What can I learn here? What could my response to this seeming delay be that would most further my development? If there is anything in my lower self that I am not yet aware of or not sufficiently connected with, I want to fully see it, yet never lose sight of the fact that I am loved by God and am His unique expression." These are positive responses that will further the rhythm to take its harmonious course. Then in its own time, often when you perhaps least expect it, new connections will open up and sometimes pour out with such rich profusion that suddenly all woe will disappear, and the former suffering will turn into the blessing it could always be made of.

Again I say that personal contact with Jesus Christ will help you to live in this harmony and to make all the necessary connections. But here, too, the rhythm pattern is at work. You may be mentally completely reconciled to His reality. You may have used your personal will to make this total surrender, and you may sincerely mean it. Yet you may not have experienced the emotional reality of His sweet and loving presence. You may wait and wait for this to happen. Often man becomes impatient and then begins to doubt. He thus disrupts the plant he has sown. When the emotional experience fails to materialize for a while, it is not that He keeps you waiting. It is that your inner barriers need to give way. And that can happen only within the context of your unique, personal rhythm pattern. Remember that and do not despair. Christ is here, He hears you, He loves you, He protects you, He is deeply concerned with you even though our senses are still too dull to perceive it. But suddenly the time will come when you will be intensely aware of this fact. You will feel His loving, healing arms in which you can always rest and find new sustenance for your life task.

All doubt is evil. But since evil has no permanent substance, you can easily dispel it. You need to bring your positive aggression to bear upon it, which is very contrary to the usual habit. Usually all aggression is put into the service of lower self aims, while an apathetic, passive attitude exists vis-a-vis the good you desire to receive from life. At the same time, it is equally true to state that you are passive and apathetic when you are enveloped in the negativities that stem from your unpurified self and that therefore draws evil forces to you. It then seems much easier to let all aggression out in a destructive way and give in to these negative influences, without using any of your aggressive aspects to either dispel them or to assert the positive forces within and around you.

This needs to be changed. It can be changed. You have the power and the equipment to change it. But you must be aware of this displacement, and you need to put more awareness and intentionality into straightening out this imbalance. Visualize yourself taking a firm stand against all

thoughts that are negative and divisive in any way. If they seem correct but fail to give you a feeling of peace, love, and unity; if they make you feel disharmonious and in any way uncomfortable, then you should seriously question them. Just the mere fact that you are willing to let in the light of truth -- the truth of God, not your temporary perception of truth -- will create a shift in your consciousness. The result may not be immediate, but sooner or later you will have less of a tight stake to pursue, often with undue aggression, untruthful, and therefore negative and constricting aims. Visualize yourself questioning your position in each situation that creates a disharmony within you and/or around you. Just see yourself in your imagination doing that. See yourself in your imagination always surrendering your position for God's vision of truth. Often it may not be a question of sharply divided right-versus-wrong, but the truth may still be different from the way you see it. And that is necessary.

Then you will find out the truth of the particular situation. You will be enlightened, and this means losing a tremendous burden. The relief and liberation are enormous, especially if you do not have too big a stake in your egotistic self-righteousness. If you feel personally humiliated being wrong, being imperfect, having made a mistake, it will be much more difficult to let go of the tight hold of your position.

The reason for that is that you secretly hold such a low opinion of yourself. The lower this opinion is, the greater must be your stake in some prideful, egotistical, self-elevating, and self-righteous position that, at the same time, creates a projected judgmentalness of others. Please, my friends, remember these words well because here it is where your personal contact with Jesus Christ is your best solution. Only through allowing yourself to know -- and later feel -- His love and total acceptance of who you are now, no matter how flawed, imperfect, and destructive your lower self may be, will you be able to do the same. Only then will you trust your ultimate divine nature. Therefore you can afford the luxury, if I may put it in these words, to accept your distortions, your sins, if you will, without losing the ground under your feet. And that is the healthy position that allows you to reach truth and harmony with yourself, others, life.

Then you can go to the next step and visualize your aggressive forces being put into the service of positive aims. You can claim refutation of negative influences. You can talk to your own false thoughts with firmness and reasonableness. See yourself doing that. Invite Christ to be your assistance in this endeavor. Then claim with all the vigor at your disposal, all the aggression that is beginning to transform from negative to positive, that you want only the will of God; that you trust that the will of God will bring you the best you could ever hope for; that any distrust of the will of the Highest is a lie you need to rid yourself of. The more aggression you put into such declarations and intents, the better the seeds will grow in your soul substance.

Your aggression itself needs to be transformed. This will enable you to become who you are meant to be -- who you actually are already on another level of reality. Perhaps some of you can occasionally begin to visualize another picture of yourself. Imagine your real being, free from all the encumbrances that burden you now. Whether these encumbrances are in your body, in your psyche, or in your relationship to others and the world, does not matter. They are all expressions of pain, the pain you suffer from some untruthfulness contained within your psyche. It is not easy to ferret out what this untruthfulness may be. Sometimes it is right on the surface and will become clear to you after only a slight effort on your part to want to see it. Other times, your defensive blocks blot out your own view, but they are nevertheless obvious enough to others who could help you if you

let them. This is why working with others is such an important aspect of this pathwork -- both in the helper/worker relationship as well as in groups, as well as in your interactions in your daily life. But then there is also untruthfulness so deeply buried that it may take a long time and much trial before you can make it rise to a sufficient surface level to be recognized. These are the areas that were not necessarily planned to be taken on in this incarnation but were nevertheless chosen to be tackled by your spirit if you have absolved your task well for the planned quota. I spoke about this in a recent lecture.

Once the untruthfulness is on the surface, and you are able and willing to see and confront it, this is the moment in time when aggression can be transformed. This is also the moment when a further visualization can take place. Imagine that your true being -- which means your being in truth, all in truth -- observes that suffering part of you, the part that is squeezed into a smaller world in which you sometimes appear to suffocate. Your real being that is without any shades of untruthfulness, error, distortion (sin) is therefore in total well-being. There is no pain there. This true being observes your earth being that has undertaken to correct the distorted part. It observes with compassion for the momentary difficulties, but without tragedy, for it knows that all is well and that the temporary suffering must lead to salvation.

Salvation -- that word! There exist a number of words which many of you have become allergic to -- words used in the Bible and in organized religion, words that have indeed often been misused and abused. But these words have nevertheless a true origin that should not be forgotten. The name of divine manifestation in form -- Jesus Christ -- is, as you well know, one such word. If you heard a description of God as form, as personal helper, friend, guide to you, as all-forgiver, as a being of translucent light and perfection, you could accept it. So do not let the word Jesus Christ stand in your way. He is the Christ, and He was Jesus when He incarnated.

Similarly you have associations with the words sin, hell, evil, devil. All these words have been grossly abused. That is true. But they nevertheless only indicate the same facts and factors that we now call by different names such as lower self aspects, negativities, destructiveness, a painful state of mind, etc.

Now what about salvation? Traditionally the interpretation of this word leaves a lot to be desired. It lends itself easily to misunderstanding, although the more enlightened among religionists do perceive the truth. Salvation means, among other things, Christ's endless forgiveness and acceptance. It means that you can always find your way to God, no matter what you have done, what your lower self still wishes to do. The door is always open, you are never, never closed out. All you have to do is knock. Ask for the bread of God's mercy, love, forgiveness, and personal help in all ways, and you shall not receive a stone. Ask to know yourself, your lovability, your nobility of spirit, your beauty of your true being through His redemptive love of you, and you shall receive it. That is salvation, all that, and more. God's personalized aspect has brought it about. The incarnated Christ has made it possible for all other incarnated entities to be saved from their painful state of untruth (sin) and consequent destructiveness of self and others.

Let us now discuss some aspects of salvation that create a lot of confusion and contradictions among mankind. I would like to give three elements that are all a necessary part of salvation. One without the other cannot function. I now mean by that, a specific aspect of salvation, namely the salvation of man's personal soul. As I said before, there are other aspects of salvation that go

beyond that. To repeat, they have to do with the possibility of every created entity to leave behind the state of consciousness that might be called hell, or various lesser stages of it: states of consciousness that reflect error and therefore suffering, the wheel of death and rebirth, with all its attached fears due to a break in consciousness. Christ's demonstration of supreme love, forgiveness, and mercy, of acceptance due to the deep penetration of His vision into man's ultimate nature, opened all doors that were closed to man before -- not closed because God punished man and therefore locked the doors, but closed because man was deeply immersed in the conviction that he cannot be forgiven and that he is therefore doomed to suffer eternally. This, in turn, took all his incentive away to work on any process of self-purification. Where there is no hope, there also lacks will and incentive. Through Jesus' life and death a new modality was created within the mind of man, a new model was created that enabled human beings to choose the path the Master has shown. He has said that He is the way, He is truth, He is life. It was no longer futile to try. Forgiveness for all sins, for all transgression exists already because God recognizes in much deeper terms why you are driven as you are, why you must go through your sins in order to recognize them for what they are, so that a new incentive spurs you on to the great journey you, here on this path, are now embarked on.

The personal aspect of salvation seems contradictory to the mind that is steeped in the dualism of either/or. Let me cite these three aspects. (1) Only you yourself can effect your salvation. It is your responsibility. (2) You cannot possibly do it alone. You need the help of others who share the journey with you, who may often see what you do not see. (3) Without God, without the personal assistance of the personal aspect of God, the undertaking is too vast to accomplish it.

To you these three categories may no longer seem contradictory or confusing because most of you have imbibed for a considerable time my lectures about dualism and the unitive principle. You may see quite clearly that none of these categories are mutually exclusive. Yet there may still be some among you who feel a confusion and ask, "But how could it be that I am solely responsible to do it myself, yet I need others, as well as God?" Even for those who are not particularly confused about this concept of salvation, it may be helpful to have more clarity on the subject.

Yes, it is obviously true that your salvation is your choice, your intent, your responsibility, your will, your effort -- and often what seems to be your sacrifice. It seems, at first, a sacrifice to give up time and energy for the undertaking of your self-work. It often seems even more of a sacrifice to shed a habit that stems from your lower self and gives you some lower self gratifications for a while before higher pleasures can take root in you. No one else, not even the Creator, can make you do what you do not wish and choose to do. This would go directly against all spiritual law whose author, after all, He is.

Yet, you are often too involved in your misperceptions of your reality and too blind as far as your role in your interaction with others is concerned to be able to set distorted perceptions right. You need the mirror of others; you need to learn being open to them; you need to learn giving up your pretenses and therefore your defenses in your relationship with them. You need to show yourself as you are, with all your vulnerability and total inner truth. This in itself is already an integral part of your journey toward self-realization. You need to learn receiving even though this may make you at first feel weak and vulnerable, for only then can you give of yourself. You can give many things before, but you cannot give yourself unless you can receive in the sense I mentioned.

Working with others, being open to and with them, fulfills the law of brotherhood. I spoke about this many years ago. There are spiritual aspirants who deceive themselves to reach the goal by seclusion and separateness. They have their rationales. But the truth is that they never want to expose themselves to others, and thus whatever their "success," it can, at best, be only a half measure that cannot last, that is never grounded in spiritual as well as practical reality.

And how could you ever overcome the hurdle of your self-hate that festers underneath all your defenses if it were not for the experience of Christ's personal love, forgiveness, acceptance, and total vision of you? How could you learn to love yourself without at least knowing and finally experiencing His love for you? How could you activate the power to change involuntary aspects that do not directly respond to your outer will? The outer will and the outer aspects that respond to it need to be aggressively activated by your dedication to your path; by the many decisions every day to face the truth in difficult or confusing situations; by your choice to fulfill the law of brotherhood and overcome the initial resistance to show yourself as you are. But then comes a point in which you deal with involuntary emotions, responses, reactions, and even beliefs that, no matter how sincerely your outer self wants to change them, do not respond to that level. So you constantly need the higher powers to help you find the way into those deeper levels and effect a change that your own mind, alone, cannot bring about.

All this also teaches you the wisdom to distinguish between where the self is the master and where you desperately need the Great Master without whom nothing can be accomplished.

My beloved friends, take in these words and make them your own. They will enlighten you and help you toward the state of mind that you so yearn for. They will open new doors that will make a personal experience of Jesus Christ possible for you. Whenever you allow this to happen, all doubts about His reality will vanish. Once you are held in His arms, consoled and encouraged by His sublime tenderness for you personally, rocked with all the comfort only He is capable of giving, you will never doubt again although you may of course lose the feeling experience that needs to be recaptured again and again until your entire consciousness is filled with Him who is in you.

His blessings, the blessings of His angels are here with all of you. Listen and sense the reality of this blessing. All our love accompanies you every step of your beautiful path. Work for the greater cause. Your own cause, that may seem selfish, will be furthered through it. Be who you truly are!

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