

Lesson Five

FAITH

FAITH AS BELIEF IN GOD

...."I believe in God."

Normally, faith seems to be the blind acceptance of a creed where you accept things on a "confession of faith."

GOD BELIEVES IN ME

...Do you have to believe in God in order to pray?..you don't have to believe in God in the sense of knowing all about God and having theological position about God. **If you can get in contact with the process and let it express through you by loving, not talking about love, but by loving, and by believing, then the activity of the internal process works for you.**

It's a very important realization to get the sense that to believe in God does not actually mean saying you believe it, doesn't actually mean going to church, doesn't actually mean professing a lot of creeds...if you believe in God out there and practice the absence of God, then you create a separation in consciousness that may well make your prayer very difficult, if not impossible. Quite often the disciples would in effect ask Jesus, "How come we can't do this?" and he would say, "you pray, but you pray amiss" (James 4:3)

FAITH IN GOD VERSUS FAITH FROM GOD

The dynamic key is not faith in God, but faith from God...Faith in God is trying to direct your attention consciously to something outside yourself. **Faith from God begins with the basic premise that you live in God, you move in God, you have your being in God. God is the foundation of the ground of your being.** You center yourself in that consciousness and then you believe from that consciousness...You're believing from a consciousness, which enables you to put yourself in tune with the process.

....The Bible gives the direction, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)). So then, **to believe in God means to believe in yourself--to believe in yourself at the divine level, to believe in yourself as rooted in the ground in the consciousness of God.** To really practice faith, first of you, you start at the ground of your being and center yourself in the consciousness of this oneness process, knowing that the whole universe is putting itself into you, and through you, and as you. Out of that consciousness you go forth and do the things that you need to do in your life in a believing attitude...**projecting that faith process that enables you to have faith in yourself, have faith in people, have faith in experiences, and have faith in a divine law that is forever working so that things work together for good.**

EVERYONE HAS FAITH BUT FEW USE FAITH WELL

...we have to realize that we're dealing with something that is always present. Faith is a factor of the consciousness, and faith is just as natural to every person as seeing, as hearing, as tasting...There's really no such things as an absence of faith...Whenever a person says their problem is lack of faith, what is normally meant is having faith in the wrong things--fear is faith, worry is faith, insecurity is faith. You're simply believing in things that are negative rather than positiveFaith is not something you're going to find somewhere...Faith is the free gift of God, which all people have, but only a few people hear it rightly and with discipline.

FAITH IS CENTERING YOURSELF IN GOD

...I want you to consider that God is centered in you...if we could really understand that it would change our lives...there's nothing you can do about this. You can't in any way get God to be centered in you more than He is now. God has already given you all that He can give you. God has created you in His image and likeness. The whole universe is centered at the point of you, and there's no way you can change it...The important thing is that God is no more centered in (a person with tremendous capacity to demonstrate great things) or that teacher, or that mystic, or in Jesus, than in you. God is no more centered in any great mind or great consciousness than in you...there's no denying that a person may express various levels of consciousness. When we think of someone like Jesus, obviously we realize that there's a great difference in the developed potential between Jesus and you and me...**The difference is not that God is more centered in him, but that Jesus was more centered in God.** This is the key: You and I are centered for the most part in things, in people, and the circumference of life. We center our attention in negation, in limitation, in a focus on all sorts of limited things...**positive faith is centering your consciousness in God, not God out there, but God in whom you live and have your being.**

THE POWER OF GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT IN YOU

The power to do mighty things, the eternal flow of life and guidance and substance, is always in you because this is the activity of God that's centered in you. The power is always present. Substance, guidance, direction, is always present. All the love in the universe is always present in you. There's never an absence because God is presence, and presence cannot be absent. We may practice the absence because we may focus our attention on all other things except this consciousness of God. The need then is not to get God to bring Himself into our experience but for us to practice the presence instead of practicing the absence.

FAITH IS NOT A MIRACLE CATALYST BUT A PRINCIPLE

...We're told that faith is the miracle catalyst that will make God work for you...God will do wonderful things for you if you have faith....that's misleading. Nothing you can say or do can make God work in you or for you in any way, because God is only present in you as you. God can never be present any more in any time than this time. God is no more present in Jesus or any great teacher than you, **but you need to be present in God. You need to be alive and conscious of it.**

...We need to release the illusion of God sitting out there somewhere as a supreme person of the universe, waiting for you to prove your worthiness by faith. It doesn't make any difference to God whether you believe or not, but it makes a lot of difference to you, especially in terms of what you believe in and how you believe and what the direction of your faith may be. ..God is the omnipresent force of life and intelligence, and this force of life or intelligence must act. Not that it may act according to your belief in God, but that it must act. It can't help itself when you create the conditions that make the results inevitable. (read about electricity and gravity pg 114)...**In the sense of faith dealing with the processes of life, positive faith simply tunes in to and turns on a power that is ever-present.**

FAITH IS NOT RELATIVITY BUT TRUTH

...our need is not for some gift of faith from somewhere, or for more of it, but the need is for the discipline to center your faith in Truth, to center your faith in that which is positive. To center your faith in the Allness of the infinite process. ...the need in our life is to own our own consciousness...to accept responsibility for our own lives...if you say you lack faith, this is kind of a ways of copping out through self-pity..By making excuses you're talking about the fact that this is just the way I am....You always have faith, but how are you using it? How is your discipline? Emmet Fox says don't think about the problem--think about God. This is what he called his Golden Key. **Stop thinking of your insufficiencies and think of the all-sufficiency in God.** Stop thinking of your illness and think of the Allness of healing life that is always present even within the illness. Center your attention, focus your consciousness upon the positive, and thus, there's a tremendous, faith -thinking power that flows through and enables you to do creative things.

FAITH DOES NOT CHANGE REALITY BUT OUR PERCEPTION

Faith does not change the nature of reality. Faith doesn't really change you, it only changes what you think you are; it changes what you appear to be. It doesn't change the reality of you but it tunes into that reality and lets it be released, and that's important. (read more of 116)...

When you pray for health, positive faith will not make an incurable condition well. Your faith has already been involved in the condition. Unconsciously and unwittingly, you are believing in the negative condition and therefore it is becoming real to you. **Positive faith simply turns from a focus on the negative appearance to centering of attention on the Allness of God Life.**

Now that Allness of God Life is always present. That's why Jesus says, "Judge not according to appearances, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24) **We're not trying to change things, we're trying to refocus our attention from one thing to another, from the negative to the positive.** But we're not trying to work magic..We're actually trying to allow the reality to be expressed and to be experienced at that level of the real. You are more than you appear to be, always. Positive faith is simply relating to the more. That's all. It's related to who you truly are...**faith allows you to identify with yourself at a higher level but that higher level was always present.** It didn't suddenly become present because of your faith. **When you understand that, then you know that wherever you are, whatever you're experiencing, there's always more in you..**You may be in the midst of a situation...where you feel that you're inadequate...Right at that moment there is more in you, and if that job is yours to do and if you've been drawn to it out of consciousness, then there is within you the power and potential to do the job and do it well--even if you've never been able to do it before. Because there's always more in you, and if you can begin to relate to yourself and identify with yourself from the level of more, this is what faith does...(read last paragraph of this section.)

FAITH OPENS A CHANNEL TO OUR TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL

...there's always a tremendous transcendent level of spiritual awareness. **This is at the depth of us and there's always a tremendous potential to do things beyond the seeming human ability**....At the highest level of spiritual consciousness, we tune in upon a kind of vibration that enables us to sense things....that fact is that everyone has ..extra senses, even though we may not be aware of them, yet sometimes intuitively we sense them. **..we all have the ability to suddenly see something that we haven't seen before, to suddenly become aware of something that is on the transcendent vibration, and faith simply frees up the**

communication process. It opens the way to allow us to function at the highest possible level to function as a full spiritual being....I believe if we were to get ourselves completely tuned in to a believing consciousness, centered in the dynamics of our own God Self, and begin to function at the height possible level of perception, that we could than sit and communicate clearly and completely with someone around the world without a telephone...when these things are ready in consciousness, you'll begin to develop a higher awareness that will enable you to communicate on different levels. But the important thing is to know that there is always the potential. (this whole section is a good read)

FEW OF US FULLY USE OUR GOD POWER

Few of us ever use more than a small part of the God power within us. Usually this is because of a faulty self-evaluation, when we misjudge ourselves, put ourselves down, or typecast ourselves like an actor who's been involved in a particular role throughout a long period of time. We accept all sorts of standards based on past history and experience. "I know I can't do that because I never could."

It's no matter that you have failed at certain things, so you may not be in your right place. It may not be the kind of experience you should be involved in...Don't think of limitations, think of *limitlessness*. (Read 121)

ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH BE IT DONE UNTO YOU

Jesus said, "According to your faith, be it done unto you" (Matthew 9:29) He's referring to the focus of attention....Faith is always present, and the focus of attention is in one direction or another, so sickness is according to your faith. Health and success are also according to your faith. The reason so many people continue in physical limitations or plod along in mediocrity is that they see so many obstacles and difficulties looming before them that they become discouraged and they give up....**You're not only human, and it's so important that we emphasize that.** The human part of you is like a shell that encloses the divine of you.

Creative faith relates to and releases the imprisoned splendor of your transcendent Self...The Divine in you is always present. The Divine In You, which is the transcendent and the tremendous power by which you can do the kinds of things you dream of doing. The impossible dreams are always possible, if you listen deeply within yourself.

Don't emphasize your problems, the facts of past performance,, or what we could call the evidence of impossibility...**No need ever comes into your life with built-in limitations.** There are only limiting attitudes about it....What's your belief?...Possibilities or possibilities? You can believe that life is a constant deterioration process for you, or you can believe that you're in the flow of an infinite, eternal life that is unfolding, progressing, freeing you from all limitations.

THERE IS A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

Right where you are, there is a resource of wisdom and substance. Right where you are, there is a source of supply, of creativity, of ability of tremendous ways through which you can do great things, always present right where you are. It enables us to do the kinds of things you need to do. Put your...(positive) faith to work--in creative ways and start believing in yourself and the all accomplishing power of God within you. **Believe it and believe from it, act from that belief, and you will be amazed at the kinds of things that will take place in your life, the ways in which simple little everyday experiences will suddenly become easy and transcendent, and you'll begin to do things that you never believed you could do.**

YOU CAN ONLY BE YOU

...When Jesus says, "all things are possible to them that believe" (Mark 9:23), ...He didn't mean that you could do something that is not a part of your innate potentiality. **You can only be you, and only you can be you, although through positive faith, you can release more of you than you've ever done...** That's what we're talking about..not being somebody else, not taking on the potentialities that other people express--but knowing your own potentialities and releasing them and fulfilling them, releasing your own imprisoned splendor.

...you can only be you, and you can only do that which is the fulfilling potential of your life.

(Read on)

Faith is not a magical means of working miracles. Get that out of your consciousness. You are the great miracle, and the dynamics of faith is the key to the kingdom of your own potentiality. As Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom and its righteousness and all the things shall be added" (Matthew 6:33) Not all things but all the things that come easily out of your divine flow, out of your own divine potential. Things that come to you easily because they are part of your own pattern, a part of your own unfoldment. **The need is to listen to your own transcendence, to know yourself. This will lead you to desire to unfold that which you innately are and thus to fulfill your uniqueness.**

God is centered in you. God is centered in you always. What is your consciousness centered in? If your thought is centered in materiality, if it's centered in difficulties, if it's centered in the news of the day, it's entered in the idea *Oh, my! Everything happens to me*. this is going to frustrate the whole flow. God is centered in you. The kingdom of all potentiality is already within you. Positive faith is the key to the kingdom. **You don't need to become something different to release your imprisoned splendor. Your need is simply to get your consciousness centered in God, centered in the realization that the whole universe believes in you.** The whole universe is flowing into and through you. Your need is to accept it, to let it happen, and to let yourself be directed out of that consciousness in a faith -believing attitude. To know you are a spiritual being and so armed with this believing attitude you can proceed to go about your business, doing the things that need to be accomplished, and doing them easily.

REALIZE THAT GOD IS CENTERED IN YOU

Start the day, every day of your life, in a very disinclined way....in the stillness, get to the realization that God is centered in you. Quietly realize, "God is centered in me.".."The whole universe believes in me, and I can know that because I'm breathing, I'm living, and I'm alive . I'm the activity of God expressing me, so God is centered in me."

GOD BELIEVES IN ME

...go off to your your work (or whatever you do) knowing that this divine process is flowing through the cells and functions of your body and tingling through your fingertips....this activity is flowing through you because you now you're because you know you're in tune and you know that attunement keeps you constantly in the flow of the divine process.. This is essentially what faith is. It's not talking about it...It's doing it. It's expressing it.. It's releasing it, easily. You turn the switch and the dynamic process of the activity of God flows easily through you and all your ways wherever you go.