

LESSON 1

Identity

The Trinity of a Human Being:
Spirit, Soul, and Body;
Discovering Where You Live;
Consciousness of Being

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We have entitled this course of instruction “Corrective Thinking” because its purpose is to correct those conditions within your life and affairs which are out of tune with the natural order of our manifest Cosmos.

The sub-human kingdoms in nature, and the suns and planets that dot our night skies with pinpoints of light, convey a kind of harmony which the human family seems to have lost. These lives, their growth and their orbits are directed by a Divine Intelligence, while humanity has been given the freedom to think as it will. Thus, we see the family of God’s children momentarily lost to the Kingdom of Heaven simply because these young, growing Gods have been given the *power of mind*. People “think” and so create their own life and affairs.

In order to understand a person as a young God, people as creators in their own right, we must first study their constitution. Of what are they constructed that makes them so different from the other animals?

Our bible tells us that we were created in the image and likeness of God. In the *Image*. God saw us with His Mind. He conceived us in the eye of His Mind, and made us in His Own Likeness.

Humanity, *like* God, then, is a Trinity. We are constructed of spirit, consciousness, and a body of manifestation or appearance.

Humanity’s spiritual aspect is the Life of God which pours into and through us as it does through all living things. It is that motivating impulse which moves a person to constantly produce experience. It is the very essence of all things which is their one cause, and their reason for being.

Humanity’s spirit puts us in tune with God, for by It, we are a part of God’s life. As all the cells in the body are fed by the blood stream, so are all living things fed by the Spirit of God. They are sustained and maintained by Him.

God’s vehicle of manifestation is the manifest Cosmos of which we are but an infinitesimal part. We see this great, divinely ordered Cosmos and we know there *is* a God. This, then, is His body of appearance. When I look at a star, or a blade of grass, or any one of the intricate forms that appear, I know *there* is God showing Himself, taking a form of appearance.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the

Word was God.” John 1:1

And like God, humanity was also give a body of appearance, a matter aspect.

We know that the dense physical body which we see with the eyes is only a part of our vehicle of manifestation. That vehicle or matter aspect is composed of a body, an emotional nature, and a mind. In this, humanity is again like God whose matter aspect is composed of a body (the manifest cosmos), an emotional nature (His love for us which causes Him and us to appear), and a mind (the Divine Mind which conceived us with Its imaging faculty).

Next, we see that humanity is self-conscious. It, like God, knows that it is, and this is the Son aspect. The infant Son is the soul, the adult Son, the Christ.

One can and does think of oneself as I. So does God. Both are conscious of Being.

A person is this “I”, and that “I” is a *Soul*.

We have heard this term many times and have referred to “your soul” or “my soul”, and yet you and I do not have a soul, we *are* souls.

If you think back to the story of humanity’s creation, you will remember that God created “his” body out of the dust of the earth.

“And the LORD God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living Soul.” Genesis 2:7

That breath of life, which God breathed into the form He had made out of dust, was the soul, the conscious I, which makes us different from the animals.

But what is the soul, that breath of life which we are? It is consciousness. It is the consciousness inside of the body which lives and moves within the form to produce experience. It is that which thinks, and feels, and identifies as a self (Soul). It is the Son of God.

Stop now for just a moment and discover where you live. Think “I” slowly and carefully, permitting yourself as a consciousness to discover where you are focused inside of your body.

This is where you *live*.

This gives you a sense of identity, of being, which is separate from the form, does it not? Take another few moments to contemplate in this place where

you live, your identity as a soul, Son of God.

If you carry out this simple exercise each day at a particular time you will begin to differentiate between yourself as the soul (a consciousness created in the image and likeness of God) and yourself as a form.

You will be enabled to answer the question: “What is the constant reality? The immortal self which indwells the form? Or the mortal self constructed out of the dust of the ground?”

We like to think that we are self-conscious, but just how self-conscious are we? What do we consider the self to be — a body made of flesh and bone that will in due course of time die and decay and disappear from the face of the earth?

Is God, do you think, conscious of Himself as being His Body, the manifest Cosmos?

And the resurrection — what is it that is really resurrected? It is the consciousness from out of the body. It will one day be lifted up and out of its grave of flesh to reside in the Kingdom of Heaven. That Kingdom is but the awareness of *who* and *what* we are. It is the Kingdom of self-conscious Souls, and it will one day make its appearance on earth. When this happens the Christ shall reappear and *all* men shall know Him. We shall see our relationship to Him as His younger brothers.

Let us take another step in this process of self-identification. Suppose that you have died. Visualize yourself as dead. What do you see — a body laid out in some fashion according to the picture your brain makes of death?

But where are you? If you are dead how can you see your body laid out in last state awaiting decay?

Now imagine the body completely gone. It has returned back to the dust out of which it was formed. Again, where are you? Have you returned to separate particles of dust, without consciousness? Can you conceive of *not* being?

No matter how hard you try, you cannot conceive of being without consciousness in some form, in some place.

You can think of yourself as imprisoned within a rock, or a plant, or a dog, or a planet but not as being nothing.

You can take this a step further and visualize the body as being burned by fire, drowned in water, poisoned by gas, or buried alive in the ground, yet none of these four elements can you imagine as destroying your consciousness, for the

soul is *indestructible*.

You will be on the outside observing the old form in which you were living.

Now let us conclude this realization by turning our thought to natural death as a result of old age. We can imagine that we have lived to such an age that our bodies are no longer of use to us. What is the natural order then, but for us to discard them? We are going to turn in the old house for a better one. Should we fear such an act? Do we have so little faith that we cannot believe another (perhaps a mansion) will have been created for us?

“In my Father’s house are many mansions.” John 14: 2

What is “my Father’s house” but His body of manifestation, the manifest Cosmos? And the many mansions — what could they be but new bodies for us?

And so death loses its victory, loses its sting, and we no longer need have fear of it.

When we lose our fear of death we attain wisdom, for it is this fear which turns us from young Gods into beasts. Fear clouds our minds so that when we think “I” it is in defense rather than in consciousness of Being. In fear, and in its final analysis — fear of death, we negate the good, the true and the beautiful.

It is not necessary for us to defend our existence, or ourselves. We *are* and we shall *be* as long as God *is*.

Neither friend, nor foe, neither life in the body nor out, can touch my consciousness to destroy it, for it is God’s.

As we come to realize consciousness of Being, our minds open wide to the knowledge and the wisdom of that same Being. We begin to comprehend our Father’s mysteries, and so begins our higher education. The secrets of life and death, of suns and planets and universes, and of ourselves, are revealed to us, and the inner Christ matures into adulthood.

“... he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. John 14:12”

This is a great promise. It assures us that as we believeth on Christ, as we identify with the Christ Life, we shall do His works and even greater.

What is the work of Christ? Is He not the Savior of Humanity? Does this not mean that as we save ourselves (identify with Christ) we shall share in the

work of restoration for the human family?

It does, but first we must bring Divine Law and Order into our own lives. We begin with identity.

“I am the Soul, Son of God. I am a part of the Christ Life. I consciously invoke the Inner Christ Life to bring Divine Law and Order into my life and affairs. So Be It.”