

# PathWork

Eva Broch Pierrakos



# Jesus Christ

Greetings in the name of God and Jesus Christ. Blessed are you, my friends; blessed is this hour. My dear friends, I have been speaking to most of you for over a period of months, but I have not yet mentioned Jesus Christ, who he is, and what he has done. At this time of year, when you are celebrating the birth of Christ, I feel my choice of this subject is an appropriate one.

Not only is the light of Christ spreading within the earthly sphere, but also in the spiritual world. You may say, "But in the spiritual world there is no time," and this is true. This is difficult to explain. After a certain period, which is drawn out much longer in the spiritual world than on earth -- according to your human calendar after a year -- the light of Christ returns with renewed force in remembrance of the greatest deed that has ever been accomplished. The light is so strong, so penetrating and glorious, that it is unimaginable. There is such bliss, such rejoicing, such happiness and such wisdom coming from this light! For wisdom and light are one. In your human language you call it enlightenment. In the spiritual world, light and knowledge and love are all one and the same.

At this period the light of Christ penetrates down to the lowest spheres of gloom, and at least to some small degree into the world of darkness. There may be just a

gleam of it, a small sheen, a glimpse of light, yet the influx is there; and at this period when the beings living in the world of darkness encounter the light, they have a different reaction to it. Those who are ready to advance spiritually will welcome the light and will follow it. Others who are not that far advanced yet will cringe away from it, for it is very painful to them; it causes an extreme pain they cannot stand. Therefore, a human being who has succeeded in bringing out the light from within, for it is one and the same light, will be protected against creatures from the world of darkness.

Now who is Christ? Some Christian religions claim he is God. This is not so, for he himself has said, as you can read in the Holy Scriptures, that he is not God. He is not the Father, or the Creator. Some say Jesus was just a wise man, a sage, a great teacher with great wisdom, not unlike a few others who have lived at other times in other countries. This is also wrong. The truth is, my friends, whether you want to believe it now or not, that Jesus, the man, was the incarnation of the Christ. And this spirit is the highest and 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 possess some of this substance which I call the higher self or the divine spark; it has to come out gradually through spiritual development. But no other created being has this substance in quite the same degree as the Christ. And

there is the difference.

Again and again I see that human beings think or feel, "Why was he chosen? If he is the son of God, so are we all children of God. Why should he be better, more exalted, or higher? Why? This is not just." These thoughts and feelings are often lurking in the souls of human beings even if they do not dare make them conscious. Therein lie the seeds of the Fall of the Angels. This very thought or attitude, which started long before the material earth existed, caused the coming into existence of disharmony and evil. Certainly, no one who had such a thought at the time realized the danger or the possible results of such an attitude. No one actually realized that in this jealousy lies a lack of faith in God and in His capacity to love. For even though God created His first son as the highest of all beings and gave most of His substance to him, if you have the trust and faith the Creator deserves, you will not think that this was unjust or that you lack anything. Nowadays people do not carry these thoughts quite so far; nevertheless, that slight feeling of resistance against Christ in a number of people represents the germ of the Fall and the germ of evil.

In what way has Jesus Christ saved humanity? In what way was his deed the greatest? What was the purpose of his life on earth, his one-time incarnation? The purpose of his life was not only to spread his teachings;

for true and beautiful as they are, basically the same teachings could be found elsewhere too, though perhaps in another form. So this was certainly not the only purpose.

The second purpose of his life, though still not the main one, was to show symbolically through his life and death the course and the stages of development for each person who wants to regain the kingdom of heaven. Periods of testing, trials, faith in God in times of adversity, crucifixion of the personal ego with its vanity and self-will: all this was symbolized by the body of Jesus. The resurrection of his spirit signifies the life eternal of bliss and happiness for the spiritual essence of each individual after the ego has been crucified. This cannot happen otherwise than through pain. But even this part of his task is not the main and most important one. The two purposes mentioned here can be considered as accompaniments to the main purpose he had to fulfill.

At a future date I will describe in greater detail how his main task meant salvation, for he was the Messiah! Right now, I want to say this to you: If Jesus had failed, another spirit would have tried to fulfill the task; for it was not certain beforehand that Jesus would fulfill it, even though he was the natural and logical choice. Someone had to come to earth and go through all the sufferings completely alone, at certain times barring all divine protection, and

resisting all evil and all temptation out of his own free will. Only in this way could the spiritual laws continue to remain unbroken so that in a spirit of justice each individual and even the very forces of evil could find the way back to God.

God is the power, and with His power he could certainly have done anything, including breaking His own laws. Had He done this a great number of creatures who were not yet ready to find their way back would have been permanently separated from God and from an 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 down to the very last of the fallen creatures everyone can at one time find the way back to God. This is difficult to understand now, but in the future I will explain it in more detail. For the present this should suffice to give you an idea of how extremely grave and serious the task was. Only understanding this will keep people from ever saying that God is unjust or that God has used His own power to break His own laws. Naturally, God's power has to be the greatest. No one will be able to say that God has used this power to violate His gift of free will given to each and every individual. The supreme justice of this solution could only happen through the fulfillment of such a task. Thus, no free will was broken and no power used unduly. Jesus Christ has proven this.

Naturally, the question may come up, "Can we find and reach God, and can we attain perfection only through Jesus Christ?" The answer, my friends, is, "Yes and No." It is one of those apparently paradoxical cases where both answers are correct.

I will try to explain how this is. You can reach a stage of development through every one of the great world religions, including the non-Christian ones, in which you can experience absolute truth. 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 seek and need in the way of happiness and spiritual food in the faith you are accustomed to, remain there: enough of basic fundamental truth and enough of what you need for your spiritual development is contained in all the great religions. It is up to you to find out what the truths necessary for your personal development are and then to put them into practice.

When I speak of satisfaction with your faith, I do not mean the satisfaction of your surface conscience: that is not enough. But if you follow the teachings of your religion whereby you learn and do what alone matters, namely work for self-knowledge, self-purification, and utter self-honesty, then the religion to which you belong or which you have chosen will satisfy your spirit. The purification of

your lower self and the crucifixion of the ego are the all-important things. Where you are able to find the necessary help, guidance, and inspiration to accomplish this does not matter much, even if for many reasons you cannot 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 concerning anything else for that matter. So, in this respect, the answer is "No" to the question whether it is only through the recognition of Jesus Christ right now that one can reach God. The perception of absolute truth in any respect can only happen through a process of self-purification over the lifetimes. Unfortunately, few people are doing that.

Anyone going through the difficult process of self-purification will prepare the ground for becoming able to receive and experience absolute truth in all its facets, whether some of the recognition takes place during this incarnation or, due to certain circumstances, afterwards. The ground has to be prepared, and this means perfection through purification. For instance, as long as there is stubbornness in the soul, the experience and perception of absolute truth is impossible. Stubbornness and self-will are exactly what hinder the raising of your consciousness. Any imperfection is a hindrance. I cannot stress emphatically enough that only those who crucify their

lower selves are ready for pure truth concerning anything in connection with the Creation and the divine.

The fact that Christ is the messiah and 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. Whether you are able and willing to recognize this does not belie the great truth. It does not mean, my friends, that you should pray to Jesus Christ. Only God the Creator should receive our prayers. 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. Now some of you are still not ready for this decision and other things are still to be accomplished. However, when the time comes and gratefulness for the greatest deed without which you would be lost pervades you, then you will be able to give it to the one to whom it is due. That is God's will.

Think about all this, even if you do not recognize "officially" the Christian religion. Just as all religions have enough of the truth to further your purification, all religions also contain errors. It is important for you to follow only that which your spirit demands and which your higher self longs for. The rest will come by itself. But that does not change the fact that you should open your hearts and not

put aside completely the one person to whom you owe most next to God. Do not disregard Christ so easily. I hope you have understood me, and I hope you do not misinterpret these words.

There need never have been a split between Judaism and Christianity. This was never meant to happen by God or by the spirit world. And that it has happened is the fault of humankind. You have invented labels to which you attach special implications. For us, labels like Judaism and Christianity do not mean anything. Why Christ was born as Jesus at that particular time and among those particular people had its good reasons; it was intended that one and the same truth should expand and grow, and that no splitting should occur. Splitting is chaos; splitting is the nature of the Fall of the angels, or the result of the Fall with all its miseries and hatreds. Splitting is separation from God, and this initial tragedy, which took place long before the earth existed, keeps repeating itself in the course of time until the disease will be cured forever. Union with God, which is the goal, is the opposite of splitting and separation. The splitting between Judaism and Christianity after the life of Jesus was another fault grown out of the same bad root of the initial splitting from God. There should have been oneness between Judaism and Christianity, one wholeness and one completion.

Since Christ represents such an important part of your returning to God, he deserves your personal gratefulness and some contact from you: you will not be able to reach God without him in the very last analysis. He is indeed the best friend you could ever have and he is your strongest helper. The answer to the question whether you can reach God only through him is "Yes." For the constant denial 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: Try, regardless of what religion you belong to, to open your hearts and your minds. Be broadminded! Do not leave the faith you are accustomed to, for that is not necessary unless you wish to do so. But consider that my words are true, even if you do not believe that a spirit talks to you, a spirit of the spirit world who has the insight and the knowledge that these are truths and not mere opinions, such as you on earth can have on these subjects. Even if you have doubts, and probably most of you here still have some, consider that it may be this way after all. What your fathers and forefathers or the people in whom you trust and who have influenced you in your life have said may not be entirely right. Certainly, they have spoken some truths, for truth exists everywhere, but no one group among all humankind has all the truth.

You, who are spiritually searching people, should open the doors to truth, no matter from what side it may present itself to you. Do not be stubborn. Do not believe that this means giving in or showing lack of character, my friends. What an immature notion this is! The question here remains as always, "What is true?" God is truth, as well as wisdom and love. If you deny truth for any silly, stubborn, and childish notion, you are thus denying God, at least in one aspect of your personality. The only question that counts is, "What is true?" Nothing else ever does, for any other question can only come from the lower self, even if clothed with apparently high-sounding motives.

Be blessed.

# The Fall

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Blessed are all of you, my dear friends. Last time I talked about how evil came into existence. This question has bothered many people who cannot imagine how a God of love could permit the existence of evil. For those friends who are here for the first time, I suggest they read the last two lectures in order to understand this one which is a continuation.

To briefly recapitulate, I explained how long before the existence of the material world, some of the created beings who had been endowed not only with free will but also with a certain power, abused this power. I explained how this Fall of the Angels, as it is called, happened gradually as a slow process of degeneration, whereby everything divine very slowly and gradually turned into its opposite aspect. In this way a separation occurred between those who had abused their power and those who had not. I have often said -- and this applies to all beings, spirit or human -- that your attitudes, your opinions, your feelings, and your thoughts create the spiritual worlds, even though you may still live on earth. You each create the world which will be yours. In the same way, the spirits participating in the Fall created new worlds according to their changing attitudes, dark worlds often referred to as Hell. The attitudes of disharmony and

hatred created such forms.

There is not just one possibility in this respect. Let us suppose, for instance, that a being in its perfect state had the particular characteristic of great strength of love, the fire of divine love. This love force would turn around into its opposite and create a fire of hatred and wickedness; thus a very disharmonious kind of fiery world would come into existence. So, you see, all legends are not as unreal as they might appear to you. Let us suppose another individual in his or her perfect state of development had the particular characteristic of wise judgement, calmness, and detached reflection. These attributes would enable the being to further the divine creation in a particular way through the slow unfoldment of this special creative power. Directed to its opposite force, this power would create a world of icy coldness, icy darkness, and desolation. There are many more possibilities of how the infinite variety of divine attributes can change into their opposites and create the corresponding spheres in the world of darkness, of which there is also an infinite variety, just as in the divine world. These spheres of fire or of icy coldness -- in the spiritual sense, of course -- are just two examples. There are spheres of slime and dirt, spheres of intense suffering through overcrowding or through isolation, and many, many other varieties.

Since one of the most important divine aspects is free will or freedom of choice, this had to turn into its opposite too. The spirit who was the first to succumb to the temptation of abusing this power, the one who is sometimes referred to as Lucifer, Satan, or the Devil, who influenced others to follow him, would naturally have been the first one to inhabit the new world that came into existence. This spirit had complete power over all those who followed him, and, contrary to God, he used this power. God gives the freedom of choice and this has deeper significance than most of you realize. With that freedom necessarily comes the possibility to abuse the given power and to use it contrary to the divine laws. If no choice were available, there would be no freedom and no power. There can be no divine happiness, in fact, no divinity at all, if it cannot be attained or maintained by free choice. By the same token, the opposite of God and His laws must be the prohibition of free choice and the domination of the stronger over the weaker ones.

This state of affairs would seem to make the salvation of the fallen beings impossible; for even should they have come to the point of desiring to go back to God, they would not have had the power to do so since they were under the dominion and power of the one who reigns in the world of darkness. On the other hand, how could God not break his own laws and still save those beings who longed for him? If He were to use his infinite power by

overruling the free will and the choice of those who decided to use the given power in their own way, He would actually be acting from the same principle as Lucifer. Here more than in anything else, maintaining the divine principle was of utmost importance, for only if God remained true to himself and his laws would there be a fundamental difference between the ways of God and the ways of Lucifer. Since it is God's plan that every creature should recognize him and at one time come back to him out of free choice and reattain divinity, it was imperative that he not use the same means of force as his opponent, even though his purpose might be a good one. It is not the end alone that counts, but very much the means too! Only by remaining true to these principles would the most stubborn of the fallen beings one day see the vast difference between these two ways of being and understand the dignity that lies in the divine principles, even though it means a path of suffering for those who wish to get out of the self-created miserable circumstances.

Since life in spirit is in direct relationship to the inner harmony, enlightenment, and general attitude, spirits who have become disharmonious cannot be simply put into a world of harmony as you might travel into a beautiful country. In the world of spirit the country is both you and your product. Therefore, the once fallen spirits had and still have to attain a state where again they naturally

produce harmonious worlds. That this can only be accomplished through the same slow process of development as the Fall with its degeneration is natural enough. You will readily understand now that this must happen in free choice, too, so that questions like, "Why has God not done away with evil?", need not come up any more in your deliberations. On the other hand, means had to be found so that the creatures who desired to return to God and to keep his laws instead of Lucifer's could do so within the framework of the laws of God. Thus the free will of no one would be broken, not even of Lucifer himself. This is the great Plan of Salvation in which Christ played a major role. I will talk about this in more detail the next time.

The spheres of darkness first came into existence where the spirits lived under the dominion of Lucifer. In the beginning there was no longing for or sense of the light they had once possessed. Only after tasting the self-chosen medicine for a considerable time, that is, experiencing a state of desolation, did a vague longing for something else -- they did not quite know for what -- take hold of some of these beings. It goes without saying that the memory of God and his worlds was extinguished to the degree that disharmony had set in, but it was revived again as attitudes changed. The latter could only occur as an exceedingly slow process, however. Spiritual darkness annuls knowledge, which is spiritual light. Just as with

human beings, if you have no spiritual enlightenment, you have to work spiritually to regain glimpses of this light. The vague longing that first some and later more creatures felt was sufficient to bring a glimmer of light into their world, as though a faraway dawn changed the contours of their world a little bit. The cold would not be quite so cold any more; the fire not so hot anymore; the filth not quite so filthy any more; and the loneliness not quite so unbearable and hopeless any more.

When enough spirits came into the state of longing and the longing increased, the time was ripe for the material world as you know it to come into existence. You may say that God created the material world, and this is true, for nothing can be created without the creative divine force. However, it is equally true that the material world was also created by the longing of enough spirits for something higher. The world in which you are now living is the product of the desire to strive higher. Here conditions exist in which spiritual development can proceed, and in which a free choice for God can be made -- which is impossible in the worlds of darkness. In other words, this earth sphere is a product of the longing of the fallen spirits. And it is equally a product of the longing of all those beings who remained with God and whose deepest desire was always, and is always, to bring their brothers and sisters back to God. Therefore, both the divine worlds and the worlds of darkness helped in the creation of this

earth sphere. The influence of both worlds exists and will manifest itself according to the attitude of each individual being on this plane possessing the power of free choice. Conditions and circumstances on this earth sphere are different, of course, due to the new form of matter; but then, circumstances vary in all spheres.

Long before the fallen spirits developed far enough to be born as men and women, the spiritual life force first acted to create other forms of life. The original life force that works and manifests itself in each created being not only produced animals, plants, and minerals, but also other substances which were at first without self-awareness. Just as a plant is without self-awareness, so too were these substances. As time went on, more and more beings came into a state of longing for light. This would perhaps constitute the only feeling these beings had at that time. Very gradually, human beings came into existence in material form through various intermediate states. When this happened, a major phase was accomplished. This was the time when the first glimmer of self-awareness was born, or reborn, or re-awakened. More and more people came to live on earth. Only with self-awareness, which includes thinking and deciding, can development take place. All the forms of life which existed before human beings have been leading up to this point.

You all know now that human beings produce their spiritual world. And on earth where the influence of God's world also existed, for the first time since the Fall, they now had the opportunity to learn, to change, to turn to God and thus to create a better world for themselves in both matter and spirit. They would go to the spirit world after the death of the body and also during sleep when the body rested. From the spirit world they would receive inspirations and influences of all sorts. This is why development cannot proceed faster; for all the incarnated beings were at first so low in their development that they were constantly influenced by their own sphere. If God's world had not acted on this earth too, there would not have been any difference between the earth sphere and a sphere in the world of darkness.

You must all realize, my friends, that I can give you only a very rough outline of all this. This touches the very greatest questions, which cannot be fully understood by any human being, for both human language and human understanding are too limited. Therefore, as a rule I do not even like to talk much about all this because the main thing for you is to learn to know your own soul and to develop it spiritually. However, human beings often wonder about these fundamental questions, not merely in a spirit of superficial curiosity, but in good faith. And ignorance and wrong conceptions of some of these points may seriously hinder your development. This is why I

have been charged to give this series of lectures, even though some of you may not yet have sufficient inner perception to sense and feel the truth and deep significance all this information holds in general and also for your own lives in particular.

How did the influence of the world of God manifest itself? Could angels of God guide and inspire the human beings who were incarnated from the spheres of darkness? This would be an impossibility since according to universal law an individual human being has to make the first step in order to receive help from the world of God. How could this step be made if the whole entity was still so coarse that it had no inkling of God, no idea of his world, and no notion of what to do? On the other hand, God's world co-created this material earth and thus, according to the law of free will, had the right to manifest its influence on earth. The answer is that pure spirits who remained in the divine worlds were incarnated at all times. To be sure, very few were incarnated at one time, but the influence of one such being outweighs by far the strength and influence of a hundred creatures of the world of darkness. The spirits who were incarnated from the world of God brought with them light, love, and wisdom. They fulfilled a great mission with their incarnation on earth, and their influence was much more far reaching than might have appeared at first sight. With this influence growing steadily through the ages, the fallen spirits during their

incarnation on earth could freely choose what side to listen to: the side that reached their lower nature or the side that seemed to push them ever upward regardless of the difficulties encountered. By such free choice, God's law concerning this aspect of life was not violated.

Communication with the beyond took place not only through guidance and inspiration, but -- what always existed and what will exist -- through a more direct form of communication, namely what you now call mediumship in various forms. Communication with spheres of the beyond depends entirely on the attitude, goal, and general development of the medium as well as of the people using the channel. During the early times, human beings who were fallen spirits could not have any communications other than with the world of darkness. But the pure incarnated spirits had communication with the world of God. And this so strongly outweighed the danger and damage of communication with the Luciferic worlds that it was indeed worthwhile. If communication with one world could exist, a connection with the other was within the law. If one had been impossible, then the other would have had to be equally impossible. Incidentally, this is where some human beings make a great mistake when they reason that any communication with the beyond is Luciferic and dangerous and even claim that it is the only possible one. Human development could not have proceeded at all in those early times if the pure spirits who

were occasionally incarnated could not have made a very direct connection with the world of God from which truth could come to humanity.

To have this benefit and remain within the framework of the divine law, an equality had to exist so that each individual could make a free choice. An equal influence had to come from both sides. This meant fewer beings of the divine world living on earth, because their strength always outweighs and outlasts the influence of evil. However, especially during the early times, a great interchange existed between the material and the Luciferic worlds. The dark spirits claimed to be gods and to favor human beings with all sorts of grants if they, in turn, would follow what the Luciferic spirits dictated. Despite all this harm and danger, the few communications which were established with the world of God made up for the damage a hundred times over. The incarnated pure spirits had enough enlightenment within themselves to spread divine truth as well as the necessary requirements to be in communication with the world of God as instruments. For without the mediumistic connection, not enough truth could have been given to humanity. Even though the pure spirits had no evil in them, the material shell of a body took so much energy away that the teachings coming from within their own selves would not have been sufficient. Truth was spread in the manner that humanity at each particular period was ready to absorb.

This went on for a long time. Gradually more of the once fallen spirits came into the state where they could recognize God. Their longing became conscious and meaningful. Their will could now be developed to overcome the evil impulses of their lower nature. The change that began to take place had a much greater effect than can be easily realized. Not one of you fully understands that if a single person develops really well, doing the best in his or her power, this person does not only help himself but adds the most valuable cosmic power to a great reservoir. It will ultimately have a very decisive effect that will spread considerably, even though the person may not see even a part of this effect. As people change, they might see some of the effect in their immediate surroundings by noticing how all of a sudden their fellow-creatures begin to change a little bit, due to their own change. But people will not know, as long as they are on earth, how far-reaching the effect of the smallest endeavor in this direction is. No such endeavor is therefore ever in vain, my friends! It is as though you threw a stone into a pond of quiet water. A ring appears around it, then come more and more rings, until they extend so far that your eyes cannot follow them to the outer periphery, but the rings are still there. If one person overcomes a single weakness, it constitutes the best help in the great Plan of Salvation.

Next time I will continue from here and talk in greater detail about the part Jesus Christ has played in the Plan of Salvation.

And now I am ready for your questions, my friends.

QUESTION: The dissection of Einstein's brain showed no marked anatomical differences between his brain and the brains of other human beings. What is, in a metaphysical sense, the brain as the physio-psychological vehicle for intelligence and intellect?

ANSWER: This experiment is the very best example to show that intelligence is not in the physical body. The ability to think, to create, has nothing to do with the physical organs, unless, of course, the physical organ is damaged, which would affect the corresponding subtle body. I think most of you know that all thinking takes place in one of the subtle bodies, just as all feeling is in another subtle body. The subtle bodies, as development proceeds, will integrate and eventually become just one: the spiritual body, where all purified and perfect thinking and feeling will have integrated into the last, ultimate and eternal subtle body. Until this is accomplished, there is division, each function belonging to a special layer or subtle body. The physical layer has as its sole function the physical life in its various aspects. But thinking or feeling belongs to different realms and therefore take place in a

different layer or body.

QUESTION: Could I hear a few words about bodhisattvas in relationship to Jesus Christ; is there any relation?

ANSWER: There is no relation in a direct way. The word you use -- we have different terms -- designates a special type of being in the divine world. All created beings had originally a particular divine aspect, specially developed, and the purpose of creation was that each being would complement the creation by furthering other aspects through development, so that perfection would be reached not only in one aspect, but in all. This is how the power of creation could have been used by all beings, but was only used by those who did not abuse this power. Absolute perfection exists only in God and in Christ, who has most of the divine substance. The perfection of all other beings is a relative one, but it could become perfect by their becoming co-creators. The so-called bodhisattvas are beings endowed with certain particular aspects of divinity, each representing a different one. This one aspect is their particular force with which they help in the great Plan of Salvation in very special ways and by various and special means. But until the plan reaches its completion, the pure beings use their efforts to help others with their particular strengths. The plan of creation will only come to its full conclusion as each being perfects

himself or herself in all ways. Now only Christ, except of course for God, is perfect in all ways, and has all talents completely developed. All other beings have their characteristics with which they were created -- God leaving it up to them, that is, all of us -- to continue his creation ourselves, by developing all other characteristics, aspects, or talents in a perfect way.

So it is not quite correct to say that all created beings were once completely perfect, as the Absolute is. We were perfect in our own ways which, of course, is always relative. You can be perfect within the frame of your present development, for instance, but that does not mean that you are absolutely perfect. Someone of a much lower development than anyone of you here can be relatively perfect compared to others, of whom more can be expected. So perfection remains relative as long as the plan of creation is not fulfilled, except with God and Christ. And this should answer your question, for the beings you have mentioned are perfect only in some ways, while Christ is perfect in all ways.

**QUESTION:** Last time, you answered the question about willpower and self-control. I think it is important to see oneself in one's true reality to achieve self-understanding in order to improve oneself. But how can one attain this self-knowledge?

ANSWER: This is a very good and very important question indeed. Of course, I speak a great deal about this subject to my friends with whom I work privately, and I have also treated it occasionally in general lectures, but this is so basic and important that it cannot be stressed enough.

As you rightly say, before willpower and self-control can be strengthened, you have to have a certain amount of self-knowledge so as to have a clear-cut idea why you want to develop your attributes, what is your goal, and in what direction should willpower and self-control be utilized.

In order to have willpower, the goal has to be clear in your mind, yet to find out your true goals and wishes, and most important of all, to gain self-knowledge, you definitely need some willpower already to begin with. Thus the process works both ways. The first step in the proper order is to establish what the issues are, why it is necessary to have self-knowledge. What are its advantages? How costly is it to attain? What are the disadvantages of not having it? Once you clearly understand this, you can make the proper decision. You will gain clear understanding if you set out to think about it objectively, disregarding the resistances of your lower nature. All you have to do is not shirk the issue and think

things through to the end of the road. This is not so difficult; it merely requires a little bit of courage and wisdom.

Everybody has some courage and wisdom within, and it is only a question of letting it come to the surface. As with willpower, here too, it is a question of deciding, of making up one's mind once and for all. This can be done only by considering all sides. The trouble with people is not that they cannot do this but that they avoid those decisions concerning their inner life. They run away from them, sensing it might be uncomfortable; they prefer to cover up the issue, instead of viewing it with clear eyes and an open, unbiased mind, not pampering the lazy self that likes to wallow in the swamp of self-indulgence. So the why of the trouble and discomfort of self-knowledge has to be established.

These questions are not so difficult to answer, at least not for a person who knows that God exists, even if many facets of him and his creation are still ignored. Even if your belief is feeble, but you follow the thought to the end, the understanding must come that it is necessary to develop oneself. And self-development cannot be done without self-knowledge. Self-knowledge is the only thing that really counts, my friends! Nothing else is any good, nothing else will ever bring your development about, enable you to have real faith and real love, for God above

everything and for your fellow-creatures as for yourself. You have to begin with yourself before you can attain the freedom and harmony you all long for in your innermost being. No matter what path you choose, if it does not contain complete self-knowledge, or does not make it a major requirement, you will accomplish nothing, no matter how much you learn and read and do this or that. All this counts for nothing, unless you use the knowledge you acquire as you follow the path of soul-knowledge.

Now how to accomplish this? Of course, it is not easy. But its rewards are the richest, for this path is the only one that will bring you liberation. So it is only logical that it cannot be easy. It means, in the first place, to be able to humble yourself. No one likes to hear that, my friends. For self-will and ego and vanity exist in every human being and are the strongest hindrances to perfection, faith, harmony and love. Whatever the various individual faults can possibly be, this applies to each and everyone who goes through the cycle of incarnations, in other words, who is not a pure spirit. If you want to gain self-knowledge, you have to reconcile yourself first to the idea: "I have to do what is most difficult for me." For that is the key. If it is most difficult for you to show having a weakness, then to show that is just what your soul needs to struggle free of its chains. Or if it is difficult for you to give up your vanity, or your selfishness, then that is where you should jump in -- freely, because you choose so, not

because life forces you.

You see, my friends, the divine laws are made in such a way that the things you need come to you. But it will be so much easier if you meet them halfway, if you decide on your own accord, "I want it because I obviously need it" and then step into it yourself. If life forces or pushes you into it, against your will, it will not only be so much harder but it will come to you again and again, until you have learned through self-knowledge that you need what life gives you, and to meet it freely yourself. Then the lesson will be learned and life will have other things to offer you. The more purified you are by this process, the less you will need unpleasant experiences. Or rather, what used to seem unpleasant will not be so any more. You cannot avoid what you need, that I can assure you. Until you have met it out of your own accord, with the realization and understanding of its necessity for your character, it will not cease. Please remember that, all of you.

In order to gain self-knowledge, you might, for instance, sit down and ask yourself, "What is most difficult for me to do in my daily life?" Perhaps for some of you the most difficult thing will be to admit the truth, for whatever motive. For another, it might be humiliating to show yourself as you are without a mask and without the superiority with which you try to impress people. For yet another it may be most difficult to be modest, to remain in

the background; for another, to give something, whether materially or spiritually. Everyone has different difficulties, and each one of you can find out about them comparatively easily, if you really try. You do not have to think very far; think of your immediate reality, your life right now. View every day that passes from that point of view. And you will, after some trying and training, come to see your reactions quite differently, I assure you. You will learn to recognize emotional reactions that you had been completely unaware before.

Your immediate outer problems are only the effect of some cause which is hidden from you, but not so deeply that you could not so easily recognize it if you only practiced what I say here. Then the connections will appear so clearly in front of your eyes that you will be shocked at yourself for not having seen all this in the past. Making the connection between your troubles and their causes, which you subconsciously yet deliberately had pushed out of your awareness, will have a blissful effect on you. It will make you happy the way only truth can. It will liberate latent powers and healing forces for your body and soul. If you experience this regularly, then you can be quite sure you are on the proper path. But because the temptation is always so great to put all this aside, you should be prepared to do battle with it every time anew. After a time, this temptation will cease. But at the beginning it will require considerable effort to guard

against your lower self that tries to stifle the aspirations of your spirit. You may be the loser if your outer self allows all the "excuses" your lower nature furnishes. Of course, I speak very generally now, not just to answer a personal question. This applies to everybody.

Make a list of your faults. If you can think of only two or three, then you have proof that you do not know yourself. And then you can avail yourself of the opportunity of self-purification and self-knowledge by doing what seems at first so difficult. Ask the people around you to tell you what your faults are. This will give you knowledge about yourself and will teach you the humility you need. For as long as it is difficult for you, it is a telling sign that you need just that very badly. If it is easy for you, if you do not feel resentment, resistance, or any kind of heaviness within, then it is not important any more. It does not matter what you try to tell others; it matters how you feel when someone tells you of your shortcomings. If you observe clinically what you feel when that happens, if you do not want to fool yourself about it, you will know where you stand spiritually. This is the only way you can become really detached, my friends. When your own shortcomings in the eyes of others do not matter any more, when your humiliation does not matter any more, then you are detached -- not when you avoid the things that bother you.

This is difficult, at least at the beginning, and perhaps not everyone is ready for it. Some may need more time, more knowledge, more dabbling at the fringes before they can really go on the path; but whoever does it will, indeed, become free. God will help you through all the further stages of self-realization if these initial steps are taken. So my advice is this: First, think about what, in relation to other people, seems most difficult for you. After you have found this out, consider with what trend in you this might be connected. And then decide whether you are really ready to overcome whatever chains you in this way, not only for the sake of your own freedom, but for the sake of God, for the sake of your own spirit, your higher self, for the sake of your development, for the love you could only then give and receive, for your complete fulfillment. Are you ready to do that? How many of my friends here are?

And then, if you have decided with a big and wholehearted Yes, you will need your willpower, my dear ones. You will need willpower and self-discipline to battle all your faults, which can never happen by pushing them into the subconscious, by merely covering them up so that they do not show on the surface. For do not believe that something you are unaware of does not exist. The process of eliminating your faults, which is the next step after self-knowledge, is a very different one. Briefly, the process is this: Watch yourself first as you really are,

without vanity, without wanting to be better or more than you are at this point. Simply take stock and get accustomed to seeing yourself where you really are and not where you want to be.

Accept your temporary reality for two reasons: 1) You have to be unemotional and undisturbed about what you are before you can change yourself. This requires the new habit of seeing yourself clearly, without any false motives and excuses and blindness, for a while. 2) This will also teach you the necessary humility that is a major requirement of spiritual development and true detachment. Accepting yourself as you are does not mean that you should remain this way. The ultimate goal must be to change the negative trends, but this cannot be done before you have accepted entirely the stage you are in. Thus, observe yourself daily when and how your faults manifest, not only outwardly, but also in your feelings. By observing your reactions you will learn to ascertain how far you have to come toward accepting yourself without embellishment.

After this stage is mastered, the next one can begin: by meditating on what the opposite of any particular fault is; how you might react and feel if you had already achieved the transformation. If you do this faithfully for a while, asking God for inspiration, help and strength, you will begin to feel differently. Your new inner reactions will

leave you so free, make you feel so wonderful! You may also meditate on how each of your particular faults is a direct hindrance to the unfoldment of love. For each fault is just that. It blurs the love force in the soul. If you proceed in this way, God will inspire and guide you, you can be quite sure of that. As I said, this is a difficult path. But blessed are those who take it, who have the courage and the wisdom to do so.

I know, my friends, that I have given you strong medicine. No one likes to hear these things. It would be so much more pleasant to hear what is easy or is impersonal. But, unfortunately, that would not correspond to truth. And since I am a spirit of truth, of the world of God, I have to give you truth, whether it is comfortable or not. Yet, bitter as the medicine may be, I think that if you open your hearts, you will feel the love I have for each one of you. Love cannot come from any other side but the side of God's world. And you should never be grateful to anyone else but God. Whether it is through me or another spirit of the world of God, no matter how much you may be helped, no created being is anything without God. The higher developed a creature, the less it will want honor and admiration. That is due only to the Creator, without whom we are nothing. This applies to us spirits just as much as to you humans. When you are accomplishing something -- whatever it may be -- realize that it is only through the grace of God that you can do it, not through

yourself. By yourself you are nothing. And the highest created being in existence, Christ himself, has said so, time and again.

QUESTION: I understand that when we are incarnated on earth we have certain limitations in our spiritual development. Is it possible to burst this, to go farther than the limitations which are set for us?

ANSWER: Oh yes. I will say this, however: You cannot accomplish everything in one incarnation. That would be impossible. But you can certainly break the limitations. That happens quite often. It can only happen by what I have explained in the answer I gave before about this noblest of all paths. If a person really has the will, and if this will is put into practice, then the limitations will recede and much more can be accomplished in one life. What you can accomplish in one incarnation by taking this path would perhaps need twenty otherwise. That is the difference. This example should give you an idea of your power to break the limitations.

QUESTION: But not everyone is led to this path. There are millions of people who are not...

ANSWER: In the first place, this is not the only possibility to take a path such as this, my dear. Certainly, the help that direct communication with the spirit world of God can give is a very valuable one. But everyone who

has even the slightest possibility to take the path will be led somehow, somewhere to the right place, either to a person or to a spirit, so that he or she may receive the necessary material to work with. It may be through a church, or through a particular teacher, or through a spirit, or through a very strong direct communication by way of inspiration. The spirits recognize where the possibility exists; they recognize whether the desire is there or may be aroused, and they will guide accordingly. Everybody will get just what they need, you can be sure.

The problem never arises that someone who is ready for the path may not have the opportunity to find it. This does not exist, my friends. The laws of the divine world work too accurately for that. The problem is much rather that a great percentage of people who could take this path and who are led to where they could do it, finally do not. Often the world of God tries again and again, offering different possibilities, but the essence is never understood, because people do not want to understand it. Just look at your own circle -- and it is similar everywhere -- many more come than stay and actually do it. Believe me, this does not happen at the cost of others who may not have such possibilities. Whether here or elsewhere, only a handful out of hundreds will really and truly take this path. Every great person, teacher, priest -- any communication with the world of God -- will convey the same: many people are guided to them, and a small,

small part will fulfill the purpose of that guidance. The great majority of humankind, however, is not yet ready to take this difficult path of perfection. If in this life they learn just enough to become a better person, to accept that perhaps God does exist after all, this might prepare them for the path in their next incarnation. So, you see, the spirit world actually gives more people the possibility, just on the remotest chance, than there are people who take the opportunity. You can be sure that those who are not guided anywhere either have no desire, no real understanding, or not the remotest possibility in this life to change in this respect, or have already found what they needed and what is best for them in this incarnation.

**QUESTION:** Could you please make clear the difference between the soul and the spirit?

**ANSWER:** The spirit is the ultimate being, the indestructible being that lives eternally. The soul is one of the subtle bodies that will, eventually, disintegrate. Is that clear, do you understand that? I think what you want to know is how the two manifest, so that you may know which is which. Is that what you mean? [That is correct.] To have the spirit consciously manifest is, of course, not easy. This can only happen when spiritual development has reached a certain point, when a breakthrough has been accomplished in a person's higher self. Then you will feel that something thinks within you, directs you, sends

you messages, gives you deep and unquestionable knowledge -- and all this does not come from your brain region where your normal thinking takes place, but from the region of your solar plexus. Your soul, however, manifests in your emotional life, in your feelings and in your subconscious. Even to become conscious of your feelings, a great deal of self-knowledge is necessary; most people are unaware of their real feelings and emotional reactions and are thus slave to them; they are mastered by them, instead of controlling and mastering them. To achieve this mastery, self-observation, objectivity, and self-criticism are essential. If what I advised tonight in my second reply is followed, the result must be, first, awareness of the soul, and then awareness of the spirit.

I will answer the rest of the questions next time, my friends, for our time is up. I beg all of you, especially those who have come here for the first time: Do not be too hasty in your conclusions. This is such a vast subject, new in many respects even to some of my more regularly attending friends -- and it may take a little time to adjust to new outlooks. Do not bar your vision by too hasty conclusions; think seriously and carefully, and do not let your unconscious emotions play you a trick by blurring your judgment. Be careful of that, for you may do great harm to yourselves.

God's blessings go to every one of you. Take this blessing in awareness, so that it may help you in your decisions, that it may strengthen you to recognize the will of God and act accordingly. Be in peace, be in God!

# Salvation

Greetings in the Name of the Lord. I bring you blessings, my friends. Blessed is this hour.

Angels of God always have had the opportunity to speak and manifest to human beings. Many people accept the possibility of manifestations by undeveloped spirits but deny that communication with more highly developed beings -- whatever you may call them -- should be possible. This is very shortsighted and illogical. The laws of nature and the universe must work alike for good or for evil, or for the many stages in-between. It is only a question of what conditions are prepared and fulfilled. If a person denies the possibility of any communication with any excarnated entity, this belief may be wrong, but at least it is consistent. However, to admit the possibility of one and exclude the possibility of the other is unreasonable.

There are many ways, indeed, to test with what spirits you are communicating. Anyone who wants to judge must, under all circumstances, take the trouble to study the vast subject of how to test spirits. Only then will that person be in a position to determine from where they come. I have spoken about this subject and will do so again in the future. For the time being, I only wish to say this: If you still lack the necessary knowledge to determine

with what spirits you are communicating and what laws are involved, you can ask your heart right now. You will get the answer to some extent, provided you do not let your doubts shade your feelings. If your feelings are receptive and open, you will be able to find and feel harmony, as well as love, patience, wisdom, and humility - or the opposite of all this. But your heart will only be able to speak to you and confirm what you wish to know if you are receptive, if you are open and put all prejudice aside for the moment.

And now, my friends, I will continue the series of lectures I started. Last time I spoke about the creation of the earth, how it came into existence, and how humankind gradually evolved. I told you that the earth is a product or a picture, so to speak, of the longing of the spirits who have fallen and who have lived in darkness for a long time. I also said that the earth is equally a product of the longing of the spirits who remained in the world of God and who wanted to help their fallen brothers and sisters to come back into the divine light. Thus here on earth you can find beauty, love and harmony, as well as the opposite, with all the shades in-between. This is the proof that the earth sphere is a product of God's world and the longing of the fallen spirits to reunite with God.

On the earth sphere you have the possibility with your free will to develop and to decide which side to follow. In

your own nature, you can of course find both currents: the good current that once came from God in perfection and the evil current that was accumulated during and after the fall. Between these two currents the conscious self stands, able to decide either to take the line of least resistance, which is always man's lower nature, or to follow his higher self, which is the difficult and narrow path.

I have also mentioned that communication with the world of spirit has always existed, from the beginning of time when the earth sphere was relatively new. Then it was impossible for humans to communicate with God's world because there were still too many unpurified currents and attitudes in the soul, too many evil desires and too much blindness to fulfill the necessary conditions. That is why God has always sent beings to the earth who were not fallen spirits. Some of the great prophets and so-called saints belonged in this category. Not only did they bring wisdom, love and purity with them to leave their mark upon this earth sphere, but because of their nature they could communicate with angels of God. This is briefly what I said in my last lecture to prepare you for what I have to say tonight.

I should like to tell you what salvation by Jesus Christ really means. Very few people indeed realize its full significance, least of all the organized churches who have

almost completely misunderstood what salvation is. Many people believe that Christ died on the cross for the sins of everyone else and as a result no one is responsible or accountable for their sins, faults and weaknesses, for Christ has atoned for them through His death. This, of course, my friends, cannot be so. It would be utterly senseless. After the explanation of the real story of salvation you will not only see that this is a comfortable misunderstanding, but you will also clearly perceive how this misunderstanding could have come about.

I have also mentioned that salvation was not only accomplished on this earth sphere but in every sphere of existence. Long before the earth sphere existed and after the so-called Fall of the Angels, which I described some time ago in greater detail, God's plan was ultimately that every single one of those fallen beings should have the means to come back to Him, back to the light and harmony. But it was essential that God's laws never be broken, not even for the purpose of bringing back the fallen creatures. This was, indeed, a very difficult task to follow through.

I also explained that each being put into creation by God was created perfectly in one way. Each being represented one divine aspect. The purpose was for each spirit to extend this perfection into other realms. Let us say one being was perfect in love, another in wisdom, and

so forth. The aim was to use the divine power that we all once had to make ourselves perfect in every other respect and thus eventually become godlike. By so doing, additional worlds of beauty would come into existence -- spiritual worlds -- for as you know, every thought, every feeling, every ambition, and every act is formed in spirit and thus creates a world.

You also know that a number of spirits have used their divine power for this purpose, and a number of other spirits have used theirs in the opposite way. This was the origin of the fall. After the fall, Christ, who of course existed in the spirit world long before He was born as man, organized all the spirits in God's world to use all their strength and perfection in their particular fields to help the Plan of Salvation. In other words, the pure spirits, instead of continuing and extending their own growing perfection, postponed this ultimate goal for the purpose of using their powers to arrange and to work for the Plan of Salvation. And this plan exists on every plane. Now, of course, I am still talking of the divine spheres.

In the spheres of darkness, some time had to go by before anything could be done. Enough spirits had to feel a longing for light before lighter worlds, still in the realm of Lucifer, came into existence. Without this longing, unconscious and blind as it was at the beginning, nothing could change, regardless of what would have been

arranged by the world of God.

In your language, millions and millions of years went by before, due to this longing, the earth sphere gradually came into existence. More souls came to live on earth because they were ready to do so, low as their development still was. More general and individual development then proceeded. Merely by living on the earth sphere, they came, for the first time after the fall, into contact with something divine, subdued as this manifestation may have been for the most part.

In the meantime, Christ was busy preparing and working in the spirit world of God, planning ahead and sending various pure spirits to live on earth. He also organized teachings for the pure spirits now incarnated to bring to mankind, either through inspiration and guidance, or through communication with God's world. It is impossible for you to imagine how minutely everything had to be worked out, how painstaking this work was so that everything would accord with the divine laws of justice.

At that time, no matter how far human beings developed spiritually, when returning to the beyond, they were still under the dominion of Lucifer. For, as I explained last time, every divine aspect was turned into its opposite quality. Therefore, free will, which is divine, was

turned into domination. And, of course, Lucifer would not give up the dominion he held over his followers. If, for instance, a human being, due to a changing attitude and growing harmony with God, would begin to produce light and beautiful spheres in the spirit world, even these spheres still belonged to the kingdom of Lucifer because he did not relinquish his power over this person. Furthermore, no one was at that time far enough developed to produce only spheres of light. People would produce and own several spheres, harmonious and disharmonious ones.

This happens, incidentally, with each one of you and with every human being. Wherever there are faults, weaknesses and blindness, corresponding spheres come into existence. Wherever you are pure and purified, you create beautiful spheres. And you will not only own the best, but also the worst of that which you have built. Any relatively highly developed human being might thus inhabit a number of light spheres, but even these spheres were still under the dominion of Lucifer as long as the salvation work in this respect was not finished. By the way, what you call hell is not only one sphere of dire darkness and misery. As there are many gradations in the divine spheres, so there are similar gradations in the Luciferic ones.

When enough beings were ready and cognizant of God, and consciously desired to have complete union with God, the time was ripe for the most important part of the Plan of Salvation to take place, which Christ took upon Himself. He had a reason beyond His infinite love and compassion with all His fallen brothers and sisters.

During the process of the fall, the first spirit who fell, Lucifer, developed an intense jealousy of Christ. Thus it was logical that Christ Himself should prove His love by His great sacrifice and work, not only to all the other fallen creatures, but also to Lucifer himself, who through Christ's deed alone would one day in the far future find it possible to return to God and thus find ultimate happiness. God made Christ the King of the Universe and as such Christ possessed not only the highest privileges, but also the strongest responsibilities. By carrying the heaviest burden alongside His exalted position, He gave another example for the world to follow.

Thus, when the time was ripe, Christ faced Lucifer. Now, my friends, I must ask you not to think that all this could not have been that way because it sounds all too human. All you have and know as human beings, not only regarding subjects and objects in abstract and concrete ideas and in language, but also in any sort of forms you know is only a limited imitation of what existed in spirit before this material world and in much greater variety.

Human beings think, when we mention that spirits talk or possess certain objects, that this is too human and too concrete. Yet, in spirit, as I have repeatedly said, everything is concrete, everything is form. In your world only material objects have form and the so-called abstract things do not have form, for they are invisible to you. This is not so in spirit. Love is a form. When you have a beautiful thought it will create one form. When you have a wicked thought, it will create another form, a concrete form for us.

I beg you to keep this in mind and not think what I am telling you is childish because Lucifer and Christ would not talk together like two human beings. It may not be in exactly the same way as when two human beings talk. The procedure may be different. It is a spiritual procedure. This, of course, is impossible to translate into human language. Therefore, the language I have to use must be limited to your understanding.

So, to continue: Christ would face Lucifer and tell him: "Now, there are so and so many spirits who do not wish to remain faithful to you. They desire to go back to God. Therefore, you should set them free." Lucifer would not agree to that. He maintained that he did not recognize divine law and would use his power as he saw fit.

So Christ said: "In this case there must be a war between us, between your forces and the forces of the divine world." The chances would be evenly distributed, which means that the divine forces must be numerically in the minority for the simple reason that the forces of good are infinitely stronger than the forces of evil, perhaps twenty to one. If you have one absolutely purified being against twenty very impure beings, the strength of this one pure being would outweigh the strength of the twenty impure ones.

Lucifer said: "Even if such a war took place and even if the divine forces won and took my power away, I would still not recognize the law of God as being just." As you know from my previous lectures, this issue constituted an essential part of the Plan of Salvation, since no one should be eternally damned, not even Lucifer himself. And so that no eternal damnation would ever be possible, Lucifer himself would have to admit at all times the absolute justice of the divine laws.

Therefore, Christ asked him: "In what way would you consider the divine powers to be just?"

And Lucifer answered: "I would fight such a war if one being -- from the world of God, if you wish -- would live on earth like a man, without any protection or guidance from the world of God at crucial times, with a great part of his

knowledge dimmed out, with matter standing in the way, and would yet remain faithful to God in spite of my temptations and in spite of the most difficult conditions possible. I would offer this person every worldly power and release from all hardship if he forsook God. If he remained faithful to God under such conditions -- which I doubt very much, in fact, I say it is impossible -- then I will have my battle with you and I will recognize God's laws as being utterly just."

You must know, my friends, that every living being has at all times guardian spirits from the world of God. But some people's attitude may keep these spirits from coming too close. Nevertheless, they are there, even if only in the background, watching that nothing befalls their protege that is not according to God's laws of justice or that the person may be too weak to endure. To be left alone without the support of God's spirit world on this earth sphere, and in addition having to resist all attacks, challenges, hardships, and temptations that the powers of darkness could think of seemed indeed an impossible task to fulfill. No human being had ever had to go through anything remotely like it. Therefore, Christ cannot be compared with any other person who has ever lived, no matter how pure or how wonderful the teachings may have been. Christ has shown in deed and in fact what others have taught, and He did it under infinitely more difficult circumstances than anyone else ever had to bear.

So these were the conditions Lucifer set up for him to recognize God's laws as being just. If this seemingly impossible task were really to be fulfilled, then the battle could take place. Should Lucifer lose the battle, then Christ could make His terms and Lucifer would not doubt God's justice in any respect. This then was the plan. And Christ took it upon Himself for the above-mentioned reasons, though Lucifer did not specify that it had to be Him.

My friends, if you study all the Scriptures from this point of view, you will get an entirely different understanding of them. I am quite sure that the reason for the life and death of Christ will now make sense to you. There would not be any sense in Christ dying on the cross for sins others have committed. If you have committed a sin, you yourself have to straighten it out and no one else can or should do it for you. If someone else were to do it for you, you would not gain purification. You would not receive the strength through the process of self-purification which alone will protect you from committing sins again. As long as the evil root is not torn out, it must again produce impure fruit. Only you can tear out the roots of your evil. Therefore, that was not the reason Christ suffered and died.

You will also understand why Christ was left completely alone for a long time. Naturally, as a man, He did not have the same knowledge He had as a spirit. If He had had that same knowledge, the task would not have been so difficult. He did of course possess some knowledge since He is the highest being in creation. In addition, He had a great deal of spiritual strength and wisdom. However, there would be no purpose to life on earth at all if -- and this applies to everyone -- the same spiritual knowledge were available in the flesh as when one is not incarnated.

So Christ did not know exactly what was involved while He lived on earth. In the course of the years, He received some knowledge, and He had a vague idea -- just as any one of you might have a vague idea -- of the task He was to fulfill. What may come of it, how it will end, what the exact meaning is, you will not know -- and He did not know that either. He was not supposed to know it while incarnated. After a certain time all the angels of God had to leave Him. They were with Him for some time of His life, but were not present when the really difficult task began.

As I have explained to you, the teachings He brought were important and wonderful, but this was an additional facet of His life. It was a side benefit. Whenever anything happens in strict accordance with the will of God, not just

one good reason and purpose exists, for many factors play a role and many good purposes are fulfilled with one divine deed. This again applies to everyone. However, simply to bring the teachings was not His full reason for living as a man. Beautiful as the teachings are, they were not new. In essence, other people had also brought the same teachings. He adjusted them according to His times and in consideration of the ever-evolving development of humankind, but that was all.

The task was, as I explained, that He -- left quite alone and cut off completely from the world of God -- had to resist the temptations of Lucifer, who put the greatest effort imaginable into his goal to cause Christ to fall. He used every device possible, and in so doing he organized all his helpers. Believe me, Lucifer is by no means stupid, even though he certainly lacks wisdom and insight. Nor is he without great resources in his own dark powers.

On the one side Christ experienced nothing but suffering -- both physical and psychological, as well as humiliation, the extent of which you cannot image. The humiliation and psychological suffering were a great deal worse than the physical suffering, as bad as that was. On the other side, He was offered all the temptations of the world of darkness.

Of course, Christ was what you would call psychic to the maximum degree. His mediumistic qualities were so strongly developed not just in one respect, but in every respect, that they were greater than anyone else's before or after. This was an advantage as long as God's world was close to Him, but when He was cut off from it, this was merely an additional hardship, for all the manifestations coming to Him originated from the world of darkness.

Clairvoyantly, He came in contact first with high emissaries from the Luciferic world and later with Lucifer himself, who made himself appear as a beautiful being, offering Christ all the worldly advantages He might desire and instant release from all His sufferings, if He accepted Lucifer and gave up His idea of God. Lucifer taunted Him in the worst moments of His sufferings: "Where is your God of love and justice? If He existed, would He allow His beloved son to go through all of this? If your God cannot offer you more, are you not better off with me? Look what I have to offer you. Your God can only offer you intense suffering and hardship in every possible respect.

Can you imagine what this meant? If Jesus had known the exact significance of His task, it would not have been half as difficult to resist. But this was precisely the point. To have doubts at these crucial times, doubts about everything, about His true identity, and about there being

any wise and good purpose in undergoing all the hardships which He could not understand at the time -- in short, about everything He had learned in the previous years -- was inevitable. Often He wondered whether He was not under some illusion and whether all His previous knowledge was not the product of imagination. During these times of doubt Lucifer would instantly be at His side and strengthen such thoughts.

It is easy to perceive how extremely hard it must have been for Him -- being a man and having matter between Him and absolute truth -- to remain faithful to God and not give in to these temptations aggravated by hardships. If the conditions of His task had not been such that even Christ might have doubted at times, His task would not have been so infinitely magnificent. Therefore, Christ had to have the same obstacles of matter as all other human beings, but his were intensified to a maximum degree. Material substance is a curtain and man has to grope to open that curtain. Jesus Christ had to do the same, but in conditions of which you can only vaguely appreciate the extreme difficulty, even with these explanations. To remain on the right path under these circumstances without fully understanding it -- my friends, you cannot really know what it meant. And having the humility, in spite of all the passing thoughts of doubt, to put God above everything, even above His suffering, and above His not understanding why, was the task. It indeed

seemed almost impossible that anyone could do it. But Jesus Christ did!

By doing this, Christ not only fulfilled the conditions by which the world of darkness could never at any time claim God's laws to be unjust, but at the same time He set an example for everyone born after Him. So when you are in suffering and you do not understand why, think of Jesus Christ within the setting of the true story of salvation. Then bring yourself to imagine His sufferings as something real, not some imaginary legend, as real as your own sufferings, only much worse. Then it will be so much easier for you to follow in His footsteps and remain humble, letting God take over.

Immediately after Christ had successfully completed His task on the earth sphere, a number of so-called "miracles" took place on earth, showing humankind that a major phase in the history of creation was over and an important new phase was to begin. I could talk on for hours and hours about His life on earth, my friends, about His sufferings and about His death. But if you read the Bible now, your own imagination can give you a better idea than before of the deep significance and the reality of all this.

After Christ's physical death, He returned to the world of spirit. Having fulfilled the conditions with a relatively

small number of specialized spirits He fought a spiritual battle in the world of darkness.

That spirits should have wars, my friends, may sound again too human for you. Where do you think your wars come from? They are only an outpicturing of spiritual war. Of course, a spiritual war does not take place in exactly the same manner as a material war on earth, but the essence is nevertheless there. How it happens is again impossible to describe because you lack the perception and understanding as I lack the full ability to express myself in human language. So I can only describe it in a somewhat condensed way that may sound symbolic and may be symbolic to a certain extent.

So a war took place between Christ and Lucifer. You have to use your inner vision and imagine it as though a war with guns or spears, as on earth, had taken place in exactly that form. Of course, this was not the way it was. However, there was a spiritual war. Again Lucifer had to admit the justice of the ways of God's world, for, as mentioned before, Christ came to fight under equal conditions. It would have been in His power not to take any risks by using greater strength and more helpers. However, He did not and this was for the same reason that He undertook life on earth for God's justice to be preserved -- even in the eyes of Lucifer. The chances were even and this was so apparent that not even Lucifer

could deny it. That was important, for the plan was, and is, that Lucifer himself must ultimately come to the point when he too will return to God as the very last of all the fallen creatures, since he was the first to turn away from the laws of God.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Plan of Salvation in every sphere. His task varied in each of the numerous spheres, because each was different: in the world of God where the manifold preparations were made, on the earth sphere, and in the world of darkness. After the battle was over, new conditions were set up. They have reigned ever since.

In your history you will read that on the third day, after His descent into Hell, Christ went up to Heaven. The various details that were preserved in Scripture confirm in a way all this for you, although the time element is not quite exact. Time is always a "translation," so to speak, for in spirit, time -- if there is such a thing -- is individual, psychological, and very different. But this does not matter, for humankind has made a symbol of these three days.

The new conditions meant that all human beings were given the opportunity to turn to God during their development on earth, going from one life to the other. Lucifer kept all the rights to tempt humans to succumb to him by succumbing to their own lower nature. Should they

resist, they would no longer be subjects of the Luciferic world, for the doors were now open to unite with their Creator and inhabit the divine worlds once more. Even the traps and temptations that Lucifer could use were, from that time on, limited. In accordance with divine law, God's spirit world now has the right to interfere. The divine laws must be observed in exactitude, the activities of the powers of darkness are limited and must stand ultimately under the jurisdiction of God.

For Lucifer to still possess a certain amount of freedom is necessary not only for the now so often explained reason that he must always recognize divine justice, but also as a necessary means for development. Evil has to be tasted to the brim in many cases before it can be overcome by free will and the being's own initiative. The desire to overcome must grow through ever-mounting enlightenment in each individual's soul, and this often is only possible after one has gone through darkness.

That such enlightenment cannot come in one lifetime goes without saying. To accomplish the perfection that is needed to enter into the Kingdom of God -- the perfection that was lost through the fall -- and to shed all the darkness that has come upon a soul can never be done in one lifetime. Many, many lives or incarnations are indeed necessary. Life on earth is like a school where you

develop from one class to the other. Sometimes you may stay for a while in one class and then you may have one or several incarnations in succession where you accomplish a great deal.

Human beings who are incarnated from the world of darkness first come with very low and coarse instincts. Only after many incarnations and worked off karmic debts -- and often after some suffering and a number of divine influences -- will the attitude begin to change, slowly but surely. When the senses have begun to refine themselves a little bit, then the real work of self-finding and self-purification begins, and for this phase again, many incarnations, accompanied by changing conditions and circumstances, are necessary.

Even in this secondary phase, many beings have not yet the strength to find God in reality. Too much of the lower self is still present for them not to succumb to the influences of the Luciferic world, whether the influence comes in the form of direct inspiration or through unwitting human instruments. Then it will again take a considerable number of lives to awaken sufficiently to strengthen one's willpower for the all-important process of self-purification. Only then will a further phase come in which the process of very gradual purification begins. In each life, conditions are prepared so that a certain side of the lower self has the opportunity to transform itself best.

You see, it cannot be any other way, for it would be impossible to reach in one lifetime the necessary perfection needed to enter the Kingdom of God for always. With each life, even in the worst cases, something is gained, even if the benefits can only be fully experienced at a later period, when a being finally declares: "My path leads to God. I will not listen to my lower self," that self which is constantly and magnetically in touch with the world of darkness. The higher self, which is much further in the background and much more difficult to reach through all the layers of imperfections is, however, in constant contact with the divine world.

The outer personality, with its willpower and capability to decide one way or another, has the means one day to make the decisive step: "I declare myself for God, for my higher self, with everything that it entails," disregarding the laziness, the comfort, and the way of least resistance to give in to one's faults. Whether the faults are still murder, stealing, wickedness or are now only selfishness, jealousy, envy, resentment, laziness, or whatever else, makes no difference in principle. Anyone truly declaring and deciding and remaining with the decision to follow the path to God -- hence the salvation of Christ -- cannot remain a subject of the Luciferic world. Lucifer will have no power over such a being whether on earth or in the spirit world.

This is the way Christ has opened the door. You may now understand why it is said that Christ saved you from your sins. This is accurate only in the sense that your great sin of falling, of not remaining faithful to God, and of becoming at one time part of the world of darkness does not have as a consequence eternal exclusion from the divine worlds. From this Christ has indeed saved you, and for this you certainly have all the reason in the world to be grateful to Him. Through Him you now have the possibility by your own efforts and development to cross the threshold. In that sense, it is correct to say that Christ died for your sins. However, the interpretation that Christ died for all your sins and all your faults is very wrong.

This then very briefly is the story of the Creation of the Universe, the Fall, the Creation of this earth sphere, and salvation through Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of this series I encouraged you, my friends, to ask all the questions you have in mind about this subject that have not been answered in these lectures. I would like to suggest that you think about what I have told you. Reread my words, since you miss so much when you just hear a lecture for the first time. Then prepare your questions and I will gladly answer them, as well as any others.

Be blessed, my dear ones, be in God and in Christ.