Pathwork Lecture 35: Turning To God

1996 Edition, Original Given Augest 29, 1958

This Pathwork lecture is rendered in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Format** of the lecture. In this sense it is **my interpretation** of the **intent** of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and when this is the case, I ask you to ponder the words for **your own interpretation**.

I did this Devotional Format so I can take the words into my heart, phrase by phrase, much as I would in reading poetry -- *devotionally*. I invite you to slowly read and ponder this format of the text – with an open heart to experience the Pathwork Guide's Presence, Wisdom and Love emerging from among the words. May the Pathwork Guide's Wisdom come to live you.

For clarity: The **original text** is in **bold**, *italicized*, *and mostly* <u>underlined</u>. [My interpretations and intended clarifications are in brackets, italicized, mostly <u>underlined</u>, but <u>never</u> bolded.]

To learn more of my Devotional Format and to access the lectures I have rendered in this form, go to http://www.garyvollbracht.com/quotes/pathwork-lectures-expanded-versions/

Blessings on your journey, Gary

¶	Content
03	Greetings in the Name of the Lord. Blessings for all of you, my friends.
04	It is just about a year ago – as humans measure time – that this group was formed [Note: Lecture 1 was given on March 11, 1957; 34 lectures were given in the first 18 months of this group that would become Pathwork].
	And it has been a productive year, from our spiritual point of view.

```
Since
                   all
                       • thoughts,
                       • endeavors, and
                       • feelings
                          create
                               spiritual forms,
              such a group [i.e., such a group as yours]
                   striving sincerely
                       to get nearer to God
                          is building
                               a veritable temple
                                  in the spirit world.
05
              By temple [i.e., By temple in the spirit world]
                   I mean
                       a house to
                          worship
                               the Lord.
              I said to you that
                   • the temple foundation
                       was laid,
                   • some of the walls
                       were erected,
                 but
                   • the roof
                       was still missing,
                 as were
                   • various other details.
              The building of this temple
                   has been continued
                       by all of you
                          who contribute
                               not only through
                                  • the tasks you fulfill
                                      for this group,
                               but also through
                                  • every effort you make
                                      toward
                                         your own purification process.
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So the temple construction
                  has advanced considerably.
                       The roof
                          is almost finished.
              And the coming year
                  promises continued development of
                       this beautiful temple,
                         perhaps
                              finishing touches can be added,
                                 all
                                     in the honor of
                                        • the Lord
                                  and
                                     in the honor of
                                        • the Savior,
                                             Jesus Christ.
06
              Occasionally, I will tell you about
                  the progress of
                      your temple.
              Now I should like to express
                  the joy
                       all of us share
                          in the progress
                              some of my friends have made.
              I think that I can promise you that
                  a fruitful season is ahead of us,
                       one that will bring
                          much joy.
              Enough of the basic structure of
                  your temple
                       is secure
                         for such a prediction to be made,
                              even though we cannot foresee
                                 an occasional
                                     individual setback.
```

```
You will come to
    feel in your

    heart and

         • soul
            the reality of
                the temple
                   you are
                       helping to build,
                          each one of you.
We are
    not concerned with
        a large quantity of people
            who may
                • sit and listen
              and
                • not really benefit
                   spiritually.
• The overcoming of
    a single
        fault,
• the full recognition of
    a single
        shortcoming,
            contributes more to
                • the building of your temple
              and
                • the Plan of Salvation
                   than
                       a large crowd
                          at these sessions.
Spiritual progress
    in one individual
         • means more to us
      and
         • makes us happier
            than
                lukewarm participation
                   by the many.
```

```
07
              Now I should like to ask a favor of you.
              Always
                  glorify
                       • God;
              do not ever
                  glorify
                       • me.
              For I am only
                  a servant of the Lord,
                      happy
                         in my task.
              When you
                  experience
                      enlightenment
                         as a result of
                              the help I am allowed to give,
              thank
                  • God
                and only
                  • Him!
              Never forget
                  that
                       • it is
                          God
                              who is responsible,
                  that
                       • without His
                          • strength and
                          • grace
                              none of His creatures
                                 could lift a finger.
```

```
08
              Many people
                  seek God
                      in the wrong way.
              I will try to explain what I mean.
              On this earth sphere
                  there is a considerable amount of
                      disappointment.
              Sometimes
                 human beings
                      turn to God
                         only because
                             contact with
                                 other human beings
                                    proves to be unsatisfactory.
              Perhaps
                  • not enough love
                      is forthcoming;
              perhaps
                  • fear and

    caution

                      cloud
                         the expression of
                             the innermost divine spark.
                  • Contact with other human beings
                      can be experienced as
                         • hazardous,
                         • not bringing the blessings you seek.
              You may be
                  • hurt.
```

The person in frustration often turns to God. The feeling is, "God • will not disappoint me. God • has enough love. God is • far away and • intangible: I risk nothing by loving Him. From human beings I experience only • disappointment and • hurt." 09 *Now this* [i.e., Now this "turning to God only in frustration" because I experience only disappointment and hurt when I turn to *fellow human beings in my frustration]*, my friends, is the wrong way to seek God.

• It [i.e., This turning to God only in times of frustration because others can't help]
is infinitely better than
the primitive reaction of
blaming God for

- one's disappointments and
- the failures of others;
- the most primitive reaction [i.e., the most primitive reaction to times of disappointment or the failures of others]

is to

- doubt or
- deny

the existence of God because of one's personal disappointments.

The human being who does so [i.e., The human being who doubts or denies the existence of God]

has not even entered
the school of life.

• To turn to God

because this [i.e., because turning to God]

is less

- disappointing and
- hazardous

represents

the first grade of elementary school.

```
10
              The way to seek God
                  is out of the fullness of your life.
              The fullness of life
                  means
                       • to enter life
                          without cowardice,
                       • to open yourself to
                          everything life may bring:
                               • hardship and
                               • joy,
                               • unhappiness and
                               • happiness,
                               • periods of
                                  darkness,
                               • periods of
                                  light,
                               • disappointments in other human beings, and
                               • unwaveringly
                                  trust
                                      again
                                          and again,
                                              with an understanding heart.
              Most of all,
                   never,
                       never
                          be afraid
                               of

    your own feelings and

                                  • life as it is.
              That [i.e., All of that]
                   is entering
                       the fullness of life.
```

```
11
              But if you
                   turn to God
                        because
                           • it is "safer" and
                        because
                           • He represents
                               • a last resort, or
                               • second best [i.e., or second best resort, that is], a refuge,
              He will have to show you
                   that
                       love
                           does not work in such a way.
               Your tests
                   will be many.
12
              Perhaps you are not
                   consciously
                       aware of reacting
                           negatively to life.
               Test
                  your
                        • emotions and
                  your
                        • fears of other people,
                   the
                        • hazards and
                        • risks
                           <u>of</u>
                               • life and
                               • love
                                  as you know them,
              and then ask yourself
                   whether
                       your striving for God
                           does not amount to
                               using Him
                                  as a substitute [i.e., as a substitute for living the fullness of life].
```

This [i.e., This using God as a substitute for living the fullness of life] is not the only motive in your desire to find God. Motives can be mixed; they often are [i.e., motives often are mixed] in your state of development. The pure motive will be • conscious to you; for the impure motive, you must • search within your soul. 13 "If we are disappointed," you may ask, "should we not then turn to God?" Yes, you should! But it depends again on how you go about doing it [i.e., depends upon how you go about "turning to God"].

```
If you pray to God in your disappointment,
    asking Him,
         "Father,
            help me find out
                what it is
                   within myself
                        that made such defeat inevitable.
         What can I learn from it [i.e., What can I learn from such a defeat]?
         Help me to overcome
            my cowardice.
         Let me meet life
            with all its pains
                courageously."
                        Then you do
                           the right thing.
But
    • if you withdraw
        from other people,
    • if you withdraw in fear
        from your own feelings
            while you are
                trying
                   to believe
                        that
                           the reason for such inner action [i.e., reason for such
                                      inner action of withdrawing from other people]
                               is that you can
                                  find God
                                       better
                                          <u>by</u>
                                               "renouncing the world,"
then you are misdirected in two ways:
    • God is really a substitute for you [i.e., God is really a substitute for
                                       living the fullness of life while in the world];
  and secondly,
    • you are lying to yourself [i.e., you are lying to yourself by telling yourself
                        that you can find God better by "renouncing the world"
                        than by "living the fullness of life while in the world"].
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14
              It is
                   not easy
                        to find out
                           the truth [i.e., It is not easy to find out the truth about how you pray and
                                       seek God – whether rightly from the fullness of life, or
                                       wrongly, either by making God a substitute for living from the
                                       fullness of life or by telling yourself that "renouncing the
                                       world" is a better way of finding God than is living the
                                       fullness of life while in the world].
              These [i.e., These emotions connected with how one prays or seeks God
                                       and how one does or does not live in the fullness of life]
                   are

    subtle and

                        • hidden
                           emotions,
              and
                   only the most

    severe and

                        • sincere
                           self-testing
                               can teach you
                                   the truth about
                                       your [unconscious] soul-reactions.
              Do not be deceived by
                   the part of you
                        that seeks God
                           in truth;
              look for
                   the hidden part [i.e., the unconscious part that lives in the soul]
                        that does not [i.e., that does not seek God in truth].
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Do not ever forget, my dear ones,
                   that
                       your emotions
                          are mixed.
              The conscious part
                   that is
                       • right and
                       • pure
              does not eliminate
                   the possibility of
                       a hidden [i.e., the possibility of an unconscious]
                          wrong
                               • reaction,
                               • emotion, and
                               • motive.
              So
                   test yourself.
15
               The best way
                   to find God
                       is always
                          by learning
                               to love
                                  other people.
              As you know,
                   this [i.e., this learning "to love other people," "to open to the fullness of life,"
                                                                    and thereby "to find God"]
                       is a long road.
               We
                   • have begun
                       to work
              and
                   • are continuing
                       to work
                          on this [i.e., to work on learning "to love other people,"
                                       "to open to the fullness of life," and thereby "to find God"].
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Nothing but
                  • love of your fellow creatures
              can open you to
                  • the fullness of life,
              which alone is
                  • the proper basis for
                       finding the Lord.
16
              Looking upon humanity,
                  we of the spirit world
                       often become sad.
              We see so many
                  struggling men and women
                       longing
                          • to be loved
              who do not know that
                  what they
                       actually long for is
                          • to love.
              It is just that
                  they do not know it [i.e., they do not know that what they actually long for is
                                          TO love; they actually do NOT long for BEING loved].
              • The coarser matter of their soul,
              • the layer that lies
                  between the
                       • divine spark
                  and the
                       • physical body
                           translates
                              the longing
                                 • to love
                            into
                              a longing
                                 • to receive love.
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```
In this layer [i.e., In this coarser matter of their soul, in this layer that lies
                                between the divine spark and the physical body]
    exists
         the ego
            with all its
                • vanity,
                • pride,
                • fear, and
                • ambition.
This ego layer
    believes
         that the best thing is
            to receive love
                without
                    taking the risk of
                        getting wounded;
it [i.e., this ego layer]
    thinks
         • remaining aloof [i.e., remaining aloof and not taking the risk either of
             getting wounded by daring to open to receiving another's love or of
             getting wounded by daring to love and not having one's love received]
       is a
         • desirable state.
```

In other words, you want to cheat:

- you want to
 - receive

without

- giving fully.
- You set limits.
- You calculate.
- <u>You extend yourself</u> <u>only to</u> receive love.

And then you are bitter -

because

it [i.e., because setting limits on and controlling love, wanting only to receive love from others and never wanting to love others]

does not work;

<u>it</u> [i.e., <u>setting limits on and controlling love</u>, <u>wanting only to</u>

receive love from others and never wanting to love others]

• cannot work.

Even if

occasionally

this strategy [i.e., this strategy of setting limits on and controlling love, wanting only to receive love from others and never wanting to love others]

seems to work, you are not gratified by the love bestowed upon you. Think about it [i.e., Think about times when love was bestowed upon you even though

you were setting limits on and controlling love, wanting only to receive love from others and never wanting to love others]. Has it not happened in your life that other people loved you as best they knew how, but since you were • incapable or • unwilling to love, their love was more of • a burden than • a cause for happiness? Something within you knows that you do not deserve love, and so you feel guilty. The more love is given to you, the unhappier you become if you are not able to overcome • your ego, • pride, • fear, and • the cowardice

that allows you to cheat.

```
17
              If you
                  • overcome a weakness and
                  • begin to give some love,
                       even before
                         you are capable of giving
                              real love,
              your act of
                  unselfish giving
                      will bring you
                          a feeling of
                              • happiness and
                              • security
                                 that never comes to you
                                     when you
                                        receive
                                            • selfishly and
                                             • greedily.
              I realize
                  that these are
                       old truths
                          you have heard many times.
              You have to
                  experience
                       the same truths
                          again
                              and again
              so that
                  they [i.e., so that these truths that you have heard many times before]
                      may become
                          • a living reality
                      and do not remain
                          • mere words.
```

```
18
             My friends,
                  one of the most important practices on this path
                      is the
                         daily
                             struggle
                                to make or
                                to receive
                                    enlightenment
                                       out of
                                           words
                                              you already know.
                  • "Oh, I knew that already,"
             you say.
                  • "It is nothing new,"
             and
                  a door
                      automatically
                         closes
                             within yourself.
             In this way
                 you do yourself
                      great harm.
             You should
                  understand
                      better.
             Do you
                  • feel
               and
                  • live
                      what you
                         think
                             you know?
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To know
                  in your brain
                      is only the beginning.
              You have
                  a considerable amount of
                      knowledge in your
                         • brain
                             that
                                from our standpoint
                                     we do not consider
                                        knowledge.
                      The knowledge you have in your
                         • soul,
                      knowledge that
                         • penetrates your being
                             through and through,
                                forever a part of you,
                                     is comparatively
                                        small.
19
             Now I want to say a few words about
                  prayers.
              We observe you
                  as you pray.
              You say
                  • the right kind of prayers;
             you are praying
                  • ardently,
                  • untiringly,
               even
                  • patiently
                      for the things
                         you
                             should
                                pray for.
```

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it often happens
         that
            when your prayers
                are answered,
            you
                do not know it.
You do not realize
    that
         events
            that appear to you as
                • disagreeable tests
            are nothing less than
                • answers to your prayers.
You need to
    go through these tests
         before
            that for which you pray
                can come to you.
But you do not know it [i.e., But you do not know that you need to go through
                these tests before that for which you pray can come to you];
you think
    that
         the answer to your prayer
            should come in a certain way.
You fail to consider
    that
         • if you
            lack a fulfillment,
       <u>or</u>
         • if
            any kind of hardship
                exists in your life,
         it is because
            you have violated
                some spiritual law.
```

Yet

Therefore [i.e., Because you have violated some spiritual law, a violation that has caused some lack of fulfillment or some kind of hardship that exists in your life]

a block

exists in you
that does not allow
the fulfillment
to come to you.

God answers your prayer

by making you

conscious of

the specific difficulty [i.e., making you conscious of which specific block or of which specific spiritual law it is that you have violated and that is, therefore,]

standing in the way of your fulfillment.

You could not become conscious of it [i.e., You could not become conscious of the block or spiritual law violation that stands in the way of your fulfillment]

unless

the difficulty [i.e., unless the difficulty caused by the block or spiritual law violation]

<u>manifested</u> <u>in your physical surroundings.</u>

You could not

• become aware of

and

• eliminate

the self-created obstacle.

We have friends here to whom such a thing

<u>such a thing has happened</u> [i.e., to whom the difficulty caused by the block or spiritual law violation manifested].

But it does not occur to them that

the unpleasant experience [i.e., that the difficulty that manifested]
was the very answer
to their prayers.

Without this occurrence [i.e., Without the occurrence of this unpleasant experience or difficulty]

they could not have removed
the obstacle
they had planted
between
• themselves

and

• the infinite bliss
that God wants
all His children
to enjoy.

20

Before I turn to your questions, there is one announcement I want to make:

We would be very happy
if you and/or your group
would start
a new activity.

Whenever a friend

- has a problem and
- needs advice,

offer your help regardless of

whether this person works privately with me or not;

a meeting should be arranged with the friends of the inner nucleus.

At this opportunity [i.e., at this meeting with the friends of the inner nucleus] the friend in need should present his or her problem as honestly as he or she knows how. And the group should deliberate on it, each giving an opinion from the point of view of what it means [i.e., what the friend's problem means] • spiritually, • emotionally, and • psychologically. Ask yourselves • what can be learned from it [i.e., what can the friend learn from this problem] for the purpose of purification; • what spiritual laws might be violated by this problem; • what might be the best way to handle it; and so on. Essential at the start of such a meeting would be for all to join together in sincere prayer asking for · divine guidance, • inspiration, and • enlightenment. 21 We have many good reasons to wish for the proper organization of such a service.

We spirits of the world of God encourage humans to become independent.

We do not like to be asked at the first sight of a problem,

- "What should I do?
- What would be the right thing?"

Those of my friends
who work with me privately
will have noticed that
I discourage such questions.

If I were to tell you

- what you must do and
- how you must do it,

it would weaken you.

What I always do, however, is to show you first

- how to understand
 - the inner causes responsible for
 - the outer effect.

I show you

• how to go about searching for such understanding.

To achieve this purpose [i.e., to come to an understanding about the inner causes responsible for the outer effect of your problem],

it is essential

that you talk openly about your problems.

```
This [i.e., This talking openly about your problem]
                  in itself
                       will
                          • shed a new light on
                              the conflict in question
                         and
                          • bring you deeper insights
                              necessary for
                                  spiritual growth.
22
              To ask
                  and to obey [i.e., and to obey me blindly]
                       is better than nothing.
              But to ask
                  • how to find
                       one's own violations
                 and
                  • how to change
                       inner currents
                          indicates the
                              • true and
                               • mature
                                  <u>spirituality</u>
                                      that we want for you.
              Only in this way [i.e., Only by learning how find your own violations
                                                            and how to change inner currents]
                  can you
                       remove the obstacles
                          for your
                              independent
                                  channel to open
                                      to
                                         • receive God's will and
                                         • hear God's answers.
              You do
                    not
                       have to be a medium
                          for that [i.e., You do not have to be a medium
                                      in order to receive God's will and hear God's answers].
```

Every human being on the right road can receive answers from God. It is our job • to train you [i.e., to train you about how to open your channel and receive answers from God], • not to • make you dependent [i.e., not to make you dependent on us] and • have you coming to us with every decision you have to make. 23 Opening a channel requires • training and • practice. What I have suggested [i.e., namely, that whenever a friend has a problem and needs advice he or she should work with the friends of the inner nucleus to discover what the problem means spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically with the goal of opening one's own channel to discover inner causes responsible of outer effects and become increasingly independent] will afford a very good opportunity for everyone exploring the causes and • solutions of the • inner and • outer conflicts on the path in the right way. *It* [i.e., This approach to your problems] will strengthen all of you.

```
Such activity is another form of
    "knocking"
         in order to receive
            divine inspiration.
After you have proceeded
    as far as you can
         among yourselves,
I shall be willing
    to give you advice
         to show you the way.
Such an activity
    will bring the friends in the group
         closer together,
            which is very important.
The law of brotherhood
    will be furthered.
It is so healthy
    for your soul
         to open itself
            to your brothers and sisters on this path
                with
                   • generosity and
                   • courage.
Those who
    • listen,
    • advise, and
    • deliberate
         will gain strength
            not only from
                • what they themselves are able to learn
            but also from
                • their
                     • helpful attitude and
                     • unselfishness.
So this will work
    only
         for the good.
```

```
24
              Not one of you should
                  feel shy.
              If your shyness
                  stands in the way,
              a good part of
                  your vanity
                       has not been overcome.
              If you cannot bring yourself to the point of
                  discussing your problems
                       with friends
                          • who are seriously endeavoring to
                              advance on this path of purification
                        and
                          • who honestly desire to help,
              divine grace
                  will not come to you
                       in the measure
                          it would
                              if you were to make the effort
                                  to overcome such
                                      • vanity and
                                      • pride.
              • All faults
                  bar the way to
                       divine grace;

    every effort

                  to overcome
                       the slightest fault
                          opens a door to grace.
              It is pride
                  that makes you
                       shy.
                  • I cannot stress it enough, my friends,
              and
                  • I cannot beg you enough
                       to do what I suggest
                          if you are in difficulty.
```

	Come to the friends of this group.
	Convince yourself how much God likes you to do that.
	You will receive the fruits of it [i.e., the fruits of coming to the friends of this group when you are in any kind of difficulty] slowly but surely.
	A great many blessings will come to the group who helps in that way and to the person
	who seeks this help. Such regular service will strengthen the group as a whole tremendously, my dear friends!
25	Be in peace. Be in God!

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