Pathwork Lecture 22: Salvation

This lecture is given in an expanded poetic format, what I call a Devotional Format of the lecture, and in that sense this is my interpretation of the intent of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and 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 – that is, devotionally.

The blessings to me in developing this format have been truly profound, and my wish is that this Devotional Format will be a blessing to others. I invite you to slowly read and ponder this format of the text – with an open heart to experience the Guide’s Presence and Love emerging from among the words such that the wisdom comes to LIVE you.

For clarity: The original text is in bold and italicized. [My adds of commentary/clarification/interpretation are in brackets, italicized, and not bolded.] To learn more of my Devotional Format and see the lectures I have done in this way, go to https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/

Gary Vollbracht

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<td><strong>Greetings</strong>&lt;br&gt; in the Name of the Lord.</td>
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<td>I bring you blessings,&lt;br&gt; my friends.</td>
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<td><strong>Blessed</strong>&lt;br&gt; is this hour [i.e., blessed is this time&lt;br&gt; we now spend together in this lecture].</td>
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<td><strong>Angels of God</strong>&lt;br&gt; always have had the opportunity to&lt;br&gt; • speak and&lt;br&gt; • manifest&lt;br&gt; to human beings.</td>
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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 [i.e., any non-incarnated entity], this belief may be wrong, but at least it is consistent.
However, to admit the possibility of one [non-incarnated or excarnated entity] and exclude the possibility of the other [non-incarnated or excarnated entity] 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 [i.e., to follow God’s world or Lucifer’s].

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** [i.e., between the good and evil currents in your nature]

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.

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**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 [i.e., in the beginning of time when the earth sphere was relatively new]

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 [for
      communicating with God's world].

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 [i.e., the full significance of
  “salvation by Jesus Christ”],
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 [i.e., their using their divine power in the opposite way]
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 [for light],
• 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 [for light by some of the fallen spirits],
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.
| 15 | **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.  

| 16 | **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 [its opposite, that is.]
  * 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 [producing and owning both harmonious and disharmonious spheres] 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 [own]
• 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 [of Christ] 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* [i.e., the gradations of what you call hell].

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**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 [prove] to 
• all the other fallen creatures, 
but also [prove] 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

in

• subjects and
• objects,

in

• abstract and
• concrete

ideas,

in

• language,

but also

in

• any sort of forms you know

is only

a limited imitation

of what existed

in spirit

before [it existed in] this material world,

only [it existed in spirit]

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.

[In spirit]
Love
is a form.

When you have
• a beautiful thought
  [in spirit] it will create
  one form.

When you have
• a wicked thought,
  it will create
  another form,
  a concrete form for us [in spirit].

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 [of Lucifer not recognizing the law of God as being just] 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 [even for Lucifer himself],

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 protégé:

- 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
  [of Christ]
  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 [between Christ and Lucifer]
could take place.
Should Lucifer lose the battle [with Christ],
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 [to successfully live on earth under the terms and conditions Lucifer specified] for the above-mentioned reasons,

though Lucifer did not specify that it had to be Him [i.e., that it had to be Christ that did so].

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 [i.e., dying on the cross to atone for the sins of others]
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 [i.e., what may come of your life],

• how it [i.e., how your life] will end,

• what the exact meaning
  [of your life] 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 [i.e., Lucifer] 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 [i.e., Christ being a psychic with strongly developed mediumistic qualities] was an advantage

as long as
  God's world
  was close to Him,

but
  when He was cut off from it [i.e., cut off from God’s world],

this [i.e., this having strongly developed mediumistic qualities] 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,”

  and so on
  and so on.

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 [only] a relatively small number of specialized spirits
He [then] 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 [i.e., how a spiritual war]
    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 [i.e., describe a spiritual war]
    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 [i.e., imagine the war between Christ and Lucifer]
  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 [in the war between Christ and Lucifer] were even and this was so apparent that not even Lucifer could deny it.

That [evenness of the two sides in the war between Christ and Lucifer] 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 [between Christ and Lucifer] 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 [the temptations from their own lower nature],
they would [now, after Christ completed the Plan of Salvation]
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
t• traps and
t• 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."

This lower self
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,"

[thereby] disregarding
• the laziness, 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 –
[ever] since 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 [i.e., from your eternal exclusion from the divine worlds]

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.

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