

Pathwork Lecture 22: Salvation

1996 Edition, Original Given January 31, 1958

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

¶	Content
03	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Greetings in the Name of the Lord.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I bring you blessings, my friends.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blessed is this hour [i.e., blessed is this time we now spend together in this lecture].</i></p>
04	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Angels of God always have had the opportunity to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>speak and</i> • <i>manifest</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>to human beings.</i></p>

*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
excarinated entity [i.e., any non-incarnated entity],
this belief
may be wrong,
but at least it is consistent.*

	<p><i>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.</i></p>
05	<p><i>There are many ways, indeed, to test with what spirits you are communicating.</i></p> <p><i>Anyone who wants to judge must, under all circumstances, take the trouble to study the vast subject of how to test spirits.</i></p> <p><i>Only then will that person be in a position to determine from where they come.</i></p> <p><i>I have spoken about this subject and will do so again in the future.</i></p> <p><i>For the time being, I only wish to say this: If you still lack the necessary knowledge to determine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• with what spirits you are communicating and</i><i>• what laws are involved,</i> <p><i>you can ask your heart right now.</i></p> <p><i>You will get the answer to some extent, provided you do not let your doubts shade your feelings.</i></p>

	<p><i>If your feelings are</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>receptive and</i>• <i>open,</i> <p><i>you will be able to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>find and</i>• <i>feel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>harmony,</i> <p><i>as well as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>love,</i>• <i>patience,</i>• <i>wisdom, and</i>• <i>humility –</i> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the opposite of all this.</i> <p><i>But your heart</i></p> <p><i>will only be able to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>speak to you and</i>• <i>confirm what you wish to know</i> <p><i>if you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>are receptive,</i> <p><i>if you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>are open and</i>• <i>put all prejudice aside</i> <p><i>for the moment.</i></p>
06	<p><i>And now, my friends,</i></p> <p><i>I will continue the series of lectures I started.</i></p> <p><i>Last time I spoke about</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the creation of the earth,</i>• <i>how it came into existence, and</i>• <i>how humankind gradually evolved.</i> <p><i>I told you that</i></p> <p><i>the earth is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>a product or</i>• <i>a picture, so to speak,</i> <p><i>of the longing</i></p> <p><i>of the spirits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>who have fallen and</i>• <i>who have lived in darkness for a long time.</i>

*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.*

07

*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.*

	<p><i>Between these two currents [i.e., between the good and evil currents in your nature] the conscious self stands, able to decide either</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• to take the line of least resistance, which is always man's lower nature,</i> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• to follow his higher self, which is the</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• difficult and</i><i>• narrow path.</i>
08	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>there were still</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• too many unpurified</i><i>• currents and attitudes in the soul,</i><i>• too many evil desires and</i><i>• too much blindness</i> <p><i>to fulfill the necessary conditions [for communicating with God's world].</i></p> <p><i>That is why God has always sent beings to the earth who were not fallen spirits.</i></p>

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.

09

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.*

10

*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.*

11

*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.*

12

*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.*

13

*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.*

	<p><i>Without this longing [for light],</i> • <i>unconscious and</i> • <i>blind</i> <i>as it was at the beginning,</i> <i>nothing could change,</i> <i>regardless of</i> <i>what would have been arranged</i> <i>by the world of God.</i></p>
14	<p><i>In your language,</i> <i>millions and millions of years went by</i> <i>before,</i> <i>due to this longing [for light by some of the fallen spirits],</i> <i>the earth sphere</i> <i>gradually</i> <i>came into existence.</i></p> <p><i>More souls</i> <i>came to live on earth</i> <i>because</i> <i>they were ready to do so,</i> <i>low as their development still was.</i></p> <p><i>More</i> • <i>general and</i> • <i>individual</i> <i>development</i> <i>then proceeded.</i></p> <p><i>Merely by living on the earth sphere,</i> <i>they came,</i></p> <p><i>for the first time after the fall,</i></p> <p><i>into contact with</i> <i>something divine,</i> <i>subdued as this manifestation</i> <i>may have been</i> <i>for the most part.</i></p>

15	<p><i>In the meantime, Christ was busy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>preparing and</i>• <i>working</i> <p><i>in the spirit world of God,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>planning ahead and</i>• <i>sending various pure spirits</i> <p><i>to live on earth.</i></p> <p><i>He also</i></p> <p><i>organized teachings</i></p> <p><i>for the pure spirits</i></p> <p><i>now incarnated</i></p> <p><i>to bring to mankind,</i></p> <p><i>either through</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>inspiration and</i>• <i>guidance,</i> <p><i>or through</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>communication with God's world.</i> <p><i>It is impossible for you</i></p> <p><i>to imagine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>how minutely</i> <p><i>everything had to be worked out,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>how painstaking</i> <p><i>this work was</i></p> <p><i>so that everything</i></p> <p><i>would accord with</i></p> <p><i>the divine laws of justice.</i></p>
16	<p><i>At that time,</i></p> <p><i>no matter how far</i></p> <p><i>human beings developed spiritually,</i></p> <p><i>when returning to the beyond,</i></p> <p><i>they were still</i></p> <p><i>under the dominion of Lucifer.</i></p> <p><i>For, as I explained last time,</i></p> <p><i>every divine aspect</i></p> <p><i>was turned into</i></p> <p><i>its opposite quality.</i></p>

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.

17

*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].*

18

*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.

19

*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.*

20

*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.*

21

*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].*

22

*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.*

23

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.*

24

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.*

25

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.*

26

*Therefore,
Christ asked him:*

*"In what way
would you consider
the divine powers
to be just?"*

27

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."*

28

*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.*

29

*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].*

30

*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.

31

*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.*

32

*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.*

33

*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.*

	<p><i>Beautiful as the teachings are, they were not new.</i></p> <p><i>In essence, other people had also brought the same teachings.</i></p> <p><i>He adjusted them</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• according to His times and</i><i>• in consideration of the ever-evolving development of humankind, but that was all.</i>
34	<p><i>The task was, as I explained, that He –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• left quite alone and</i><i>• 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.</i> <p><i>He [i.e., Lucifer]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• used every device possible, and in so doing he</i><i>• organized all his helpers.</i> <p><i>Believe me, Lucifer is by no means stupid, even though he certainly lacks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• wisdom and</i><i>• insight.</i> <p><i>Nor is he without great resources in his own dark powers.</i></p>

35	<p><i>On the one side</i> <i>Christ experienced</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>nothing but suffering – both</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>physical and</i>• <i>psychological,</i> <p><i>as well as</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>humiliation,</i> <i>the extent of which</i> <i>you cannot image.</i> <p><i>The</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>humiliation and</i>• <i>psychological suffering</i> <p><i>were a great deal worse than the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>physical suffering,</i> <i>as bad as that was.</i> <p><i>On the other side,</i> <i>He was offered</i> <i>all the temptations</i> <i>of the world of darkness.</i></p>
36	<p><i>Of course,</i> <i>Christ was</i> <i>what you would call</i> <i>psychic</i> <i>to the maximum degree.</i></p> <p><i>His mediumistic qualities</i> <i>were so strongly developed</i> <i>not just in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>one respect,</i> <i>but in</i>• <i>every respect,</i> <p><i>that they were greater than</i> <i>anyone else's</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>before or</i>• <i>after.</i>

	<p><i>This [i.e., Christ being a psychic with strongly developed mediumistic qualities] was an advantage</i></p> <p><i>as long as God's world was close to Him,</i></p> <p><i>but when He was cut off from it [i.e., cut off from God's world],</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
37	<p><i>Clairvoyantly,</i></p> <p><i>He came in contact first with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• high emissaries from the Luciferic world and</i> <p><i>later with</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Lucifer himself, who made himself appear as a beautiful being, offering Christ</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• all the worldly advantages He might desire and</i><i>• instant release from all His sufferings,</i> <p><i>if He</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• accepted Lucifer and</i><i>• gave up His idea of God.</i>

*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.*

38

*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.

39

*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!*

40

*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.*

41	<p><i>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</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• a major phase in the history of creation was over</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• an important new phase was to begin.</i> <p><i>I could talk on for hours and hours about</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• His life on earth, my friends,</i> <p><i>about</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• His sufferings and</i> <p><i>about</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• His death.</i> <p><i>But if you read the Bible now, your own imagination can give you a better idea than before of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• the deep significance and</i><i>• the reality of all this.</i>
42	<p><i>After Christ's physical death, He returned to the world of spirit.</i></p> <p><i>Having fulfilled the conditions</i></p> <p><i>with [only] a relatively small number of specialized spirits He [then] fought a spiritual battle in the world of darkness.</i></p>

43

*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.*

44

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.*

45	<p><i>Jesus Christ fulfilled the Plan of Salvation in every sphere.</i></p> <p><i>His task varied in each of the numerous spheres, because each was different:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• in the world of God where the manifold preparations were made,</i><i>• on the earth sphere, and</i><i>• in the world of darkness.</i> <p><i>After the battle [between Christ and Lucifer] was over, new conditions were set up.</i></p> <p><i>They have reigned ever since.</i></p>
46	<p><i>In your history you will read that on the third day, after His descent into Hell, Christ went up to Heaven.</i></p> <p><i>The various details that were preserved in Scripture confirm in a way all this for you, although the time element is not quite exact.</i></p>

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.*

47

*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
• *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.

48

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.*

49

*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.*

50

*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.*

	<p><i>When the senses have begun to refine themselves a little bit, then the real work of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• self-finding and</i><i>• self-purification begins,</i> <p><i>and for this phase again, many incarnations, accompanied by changing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• conditions and</i><i>• circumstances, are necessary.</i>
51	<p><i>Even in this secondary phase, many beings have not yet the strength to find God in reality.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• direct inspiration</i> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• through unwitting human instruments.</i>

*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.*

52

*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.*

53

*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,*
- *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.

	<p><i>Anyone truly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>declaring and</i>• <i>deciding and</i>• <i>remaining with the decision to follow the path to God – [ever] since the salvation of Christ –</i> <p><i>cannot remain a subject of the Luciferic world.</i></p> <p><i>Lucifer will have no power over such a being whether</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>on earth</i> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>in the spirit world.</i>
54	<p><i>This is the way Christ has opened the door.</i></p> <p><i>You may now understand why it is said that Christ saved you from your sins.</i></p> <p><i>This is accurate only in the sense that your great sin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>of falling,</i>• <i>of not remaining faithful to God, and</i>• <i>of becoming at one time part of the world of darkness</i> <p><i>does not have as a consequence eternal exclusion from the divine worlds.</i></p>

*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.*

55

*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.*

56	<p><i>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></p> <p><i>I would like to suggest that you think about what I have told you.</i></p> <p><i>Reread my words, since you miss so much when you just hear a lecture for the first time.</i></p> <p><i>Then prepare your questions and I will gladly answer them, as well as any others.</i></p>
57	<p><i>Be blessed, my dear ones,</i></p> <p><i>be</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• in God and</i><i>• in Christ.</i>

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