

Pathwork Lecture 35: Turning To God

1996 Edition, Original Given August 29, 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

¶	<i>Content</i>
03	<p><i>Greetings in the Name of the Lord.</i></p> <p><i>Blessings for all of you, my friends.</i></p>
04	<p><i>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].</i></p> <p><i>And it has been a productive year, from our spiritual point of view.</i></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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Edited by Judith and John Saly; Devotional Format posted 8/1/18

	<p><i>Since all</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>thoughts,</i>• <i>endeavors, and</i>• <i>feelings</i> <p><i>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.</i></p>
05	<p><i>By temple [i.e., By temple in the spirit world] I mean a house to worship the Lord.</i></p> <p><i>I said to you that</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the temple foundation was laid,</i>• <i>some of the walls were erected,</i> <p><i>but</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the roof was still missing,</i> <p><i>as were</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>various other details.</i> <p><i>The building of this temple has been continued by all of you who contribute not only through</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the tasks you fulfill for this group,</i> <p><i>but also through</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>every effort you make toward your own purification process.</i>

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

	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Motives can be mixed; they often are [i.e., motives often are mixed] in your state of development.</i></p> <p><i>The pure motive will be</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• conscious to you;</i> <p><i>for the impure motive, you must</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• search within your soul.</i>
13	<p><i>"If we are disappointed," you may ask, "should we not then turn to God?"</i></p> <p><i>Yes, you should!</i></p> <p><i>But it depends again on how you go about doing it [i.e., depends upon how you go about "turning to God"].</i></p>

*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
by*

"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"].*

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*].

	<p><i>Do not ever forget, my dear ones, that your emotions are mixed.</i></p> <p><i>The conscious part that is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• right and</i><i>• pure</i> <p><i>does not eliminate the possibility of a hidden [i.e., the possibility of an unconscious] wrong</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• reaction,</i><i>• emotion, and</i><i>• motive.</i> <p><i>So test yourself.</i></p>
15	<p><i>The best way to find God is always by learning to love other people.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>We</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• have begun to work</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• are continuing to work</i> <p><i>on this [i.e., to work on learning “to love other people,” “to open to the fullness of life,” and thereby “to find God”].</i></p>

	<p><i>Nothing but</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>love of your fellow creatures</i> <p><i>can open you to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the fullness of life,</i> <p><i>which alone is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the proper basis for finding the Lord.</i>
16	<p><i>Looking upon humanity, we of the spirit world often become sad.</i></p> <p><i>We see so many struggling men and women longing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to be loved</i> <p><i>who do not know that what they actually long for is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to love.</i> <p><i>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].</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The coarser matter of their soul,</i>• <i>the layer that lies between the</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>divine spark</i>• <i>and the</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>physical body</i>• <i>translates the longing</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to love</i>• <i>into</i>• <i>a longing</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to receive love.</i>

***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.***

- ***You extend yourself***
 - ***only to***
 - ***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;***

***it [i.e., setting limits on and controlling love, wanting only to
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?*

*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.*

*Yet
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,
or
• if
any kind of hardship
exists in your life,

it is because
you have violated
some spiritual law.*

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]
manifested
in your physical surroundings.

You could not
• become aware of
and
• eliminate
the self-created obstacle.

*We have friends here
to whom
such a thing has happened [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.*

	<p><i>This [i.e., This talking openly about your problem] in itself will</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• shed a new light on the conflict in question</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• bring you deeper insights necessary for spiritual growth.</i>
22	<p><i>To ask and to obey [i.e., and to obey me blindly] is better than nothing.</i></p> <p><i>But to ask</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• how to find one's own violations</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• how to change inner currents</i> <p><i>indicates the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• true and</i><i>• mature spirituality that we want for you.</i> <p><i>Only in this way [i.e., Only by learning how find your own violations and how to change inner currents]</i></p> <p><i>can you remove the obstacles for your independent channel to open to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• receive God's will and</i><i>• hear God's answers.</i> <p><i>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].</i></p>

	<p><i>Every human being on the right road can receive answers from God.</i></p> <p><i>It is our job</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to train you [i.e., to train you about how to open your channel and receive answers from God],</i>• <i>not to</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>make you dependent [i.e., not to make you dependent on us]</i> <p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>have you coming to us with every decision you have to make.</i>
23	<p><i>Opening a channel requires</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>training and</i>• <i>practice.</i> <p><i>What I have suggested</i></p> <p><i>[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]</i></p> <p><i>will afford a very good opportunity for everyone exploring the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>causes and</i>• <i>solutions</i> <p><i>of the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>inner and</i>• <i>outer</i> <p><i>conflicts on the path in the right way.</i></p> <p><i>It [i.e., This approach to your problems] will strengthen all of you.</i></p>

*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.*

	<p><i>Come to the friends of this group.</i></p> <p><i>Convince yourself how much God likes you to do that.</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>slowly but surely.</i></p> <p><i>A great many blessings will come to the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• group who helps in that way and</i><i>to the</i><i>• person who seeks this help.</i> <p><i>Such regular service will strengthen the group as a whole tremendously, my dear friends!</i></p>
25	<p><i>Be in peace.</i></p> <p><i>Be in God!</i></p>

For information to find and participate in Pathwork activities world wide, please write:

The Pathwork® Foundation
PO Box 6010
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6010, USA
Call: 1-800-PATHWORK, or
Visit: www.pathwork.org

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