

## Lecture 9 - The Cornerstones of Spirituality

**Discover how man's ideas of the spiritual worlds have been distorted. Mr. LePar explores a new understanding of ancient teachings. He gives four truths guaranteed to raise your consciousness. Shed the cloak of fear by knowing the truth.**

In order to convey understanding or truth to each other we are hindered by the use of words. One word to one person may have a specific meaning. That same word to another person can give a different idea of what is being conveyed. To show you how unstable our vocabulary is and how unstable words are, when I was a very young kid in high school, we had a couple of slang terms like "chick" and "cool." Can you imagine, if as young kid, we were to have written on the wall that "Jean Ann was a cool chick." Then a thousand years later some archeologist comes along, digging in some rubble and finds this wall with "Jean Ann is a cool chick." The archeologist may look at that and say, "They had a little chicken that they called Jean Ann, and the poor little peep must have shivered and been cold all the time" which was completely out of context of what we may have written on that wall.

Spiritual truths and concepts, unfortunately, are conveyed to us through words. Through time these spiritual concepts can become clouded or totally lost because of the use of the words or the use of inappropriate words that we have chosen to convey such thoughts. Today we are going to rediscover the true meaning of some of the words that the Christian or Western Belief system hangs onto very dearly.

Now I want to start by saying that I don't care what belief system you belong to. There is an equivalent concept in all of the major belief systems whether you are talking about the Christian belief system or Muslim belief system or any of the other belief systems. These basic concepts run through all of the major belief systems in our present day and in the past.

### Sin

The first word I would like to address, that in most cases, will strike fear in some people's minds while in other people's minds it's just so much verbiage. That word is sin. What is sin? Being raised a good Catholic boy, I went to catechism, and the good sisters taught right and wrong through the Baltimore Catechism. When the nuns tried to convey sin to us they said, "Whenever you go against the Ten Commandments, that's a sin." So sin became a series of don'ts. Don't even think let alone do because it would be a sin.

In our society today if a man is destitute, can't find a job, has nothing, has a family that he wants to feed, so he goes into a local grocery store and steals some bread, some meat and some vegetables. He gets caught. He is going to go to prison. Another guy can steal millions of dollars, such as the savings and loan scandal. That guy is sent to a country club prison where he has swimming pools; he has a gym; he has a golf course and, at best, he may get four to five years. If that isn't an insult, he also doesn't even have to pay back the money that he's stolen. It makes no difference how he's destroyed the lives of thousands and thousands of people. That is his punishment.

I think some of the injustices that we have in our society are based on the fact that we don't understand the real meanings that were established at the beginning of time as

far as spiritual principles. What does the word sin really mean? What was the concept that we were to understand? I can sum it up in one simple word and that is separation. Whenever you read in either the Christian Bible or any other spiritual writings, I don't care what religion it is, and you see the equivalent of sin, the concept that is trying to be conveyed is the concept of separation. Because of the use of words we have lost that understanding.

### **Repent**

The second word is repentance, and this is very popular in some of the fundamental religions. If you have ever watched an evangelist meeting or revival, you will see some of these people saying, "Oh, I'm such a terrible sinner. I have got to repent. I have got to repent. I'm a terrible person." They go into an emotional frenzy. Some of them fall on the ground. I almost expect in this frenzy for one of them to actually be so overwhelmed with emotionalism that they actually scream out, "Oh, crucify me. Crucify me. I'm a terrible person." What is this? Is this a real understanding? No, it is a pity party that they are on. They want to be bad people because they were told that they are bad people, and they have to repent of their sin. The real meaning of repentance is to turn around, to change direction, or to reverse course.

### **Salvation**

The third word is salvation. Again, going to traditional Christianity, when we hear the word salvation, we are such terrible people, such terrible beings that we must be saved. Saved from what? Saved from the fires of hell because we are so evil? If we go just to the Christian Bible and we read the word salvation, the concept that was to be conveyed was the concept of wholeness. Wholeness. Here we have three words – sin, repentance, salvation. Sin is separation. Repentance is turn around. Salvation is to make whole.

### **Hell**

Some of you say, "What about hell?" Well, what about hell? What do we really know about hell? How many times have we been given a description of hell? How many of us have ever said to the teacher or the minister or the rabbi or the priest, "Are you sure you are giving me the right definition of hell? Are you sure you know what you are talking about?" I venture to say that very few people in here have ever challenged any of these words. Now if we go back, and this is something we must do is go back to the time when we received these words whether it is 2,000 year ago or 20,000 years ago. You have to go back to that time and understand what they were talking about and how they conveyed those thoughts.

Hell comes from the word Sheol or Hades. Back at that time the word Sheol meant the land of shadows, or the other meaning was the nether land or the nether world. Someone may ask where does fire and brimstone come in. It doesn't. You may ask how did we come to this fire and brimstone idea and if I die, aren't I going to burn? Fire and brimstone came from an analogy that Jesus gave his friends when they left the city of

Jerusalem one day. They walked out to a little ravine that was called Gehenna. Gehenna was the city dump of Jerusalem. That is where the people of Jerusalem brought their garbage, their busted up furniture, old wagons that no longer would carry a person. It was literally the city dump. In order to keep down the spread of germs and contaminants they set this dump on fire. This fire burned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. There were clouds of smoke that would rise up out of this little ravine. Many times on a still day the cloud cover was so heavy that it would block out the light around this ravine. So when Jesus brought his students out to try to make them understand what Sheol was like, he said it is much like Gehenna. It is the city dump. It's where things that are no longer useful are put to rest, and they are consumed by this fire, and this fire creates a dark smoke and it casts a shadow over the land. It darkens the land.

The translators didn't know what they were really translating. They didn't understand what they were really translating. They thought that Jesus the teacher was saying that the nether land or hell or the life after was a place of fire and burning, but what he was trying to convey to his student was that yes, in the Netherworld, in Sheol, in the land of shadows, there is a burning, but it's not a physical burning. We all understand how fire works. I take this match and I want to create fire. I have to have something to burn. I strike this match, and the match burns because there is something there to burn. When we die, what is there to burn? When my parents passed away and after a proper funeral we put them in a little box, and then we put them in a hole in the ground. That's where their bodies are. Their soul, which is not solid, which is spirit, is someplace else. What is there to burn?

Then what was the man Jesus attempting to convey to us? He was trying to convey to us that the soul, the real you, the life force, will burn with a zeal to find its error in life. So He compares hell to the fire consuming the trash. What happens when we enter the land of Sheol or Hell is that we realize that we have lived a less than perfect life, so that the goodness in us has that strong desire to realize its mistakes. So the goodness pursues itself in a quest of self-discovery. What mistakes did I make? What realizations can I come to? How can I correct those mistakes the next time? If you understand spiritual teachings and again since we are in the Western belief system or part of it, I use this as a basis but again I repeat to you, these same concepts are in every major religion that has ever been on the face of the earth. They have used different words but it's the same principle. Sheol is the land of shadows. If you understand spiritual teachings, the concept of shadow is a lack of light or an impedance to the light, and when you are "whole," you are looking into the light. When you are less than whole, you are looking into the shadow, so basically what we have done is that we have turned our back to the light. We are now facing in a direction where we can only see our shadow or only see the darkness ahead of us created by our own hindrance to the light. So when we say that we are looking into the shadow, in order to correct that, we must repent or change or turn around. We reach our salvation when we face the light and become whole again. We are complete. We are in our proper station in the spiritual world.

Sin is an act of separation. It is something that we have done that has caused us to turn around and look into our own shadow. All we must do then is change that direction and we become whole automatically. This whole idea of the light and the dark is an age old concept. Scientists discovered some Tibetan writings in the Himalayas. They estimated that these writings were in the area of 3,000 to 5,000 years old but in these

writings there were references made to as far back as 25,000 years ago. In those writings they talked about the light versus the darkness. So this is a concept that is not new to man. In fact, if you look at all the spiritual writings we have today, laced in there you are going to see these same concepts, the light versus the darkness, an act of separation, changing that direction in life, and becoming one again with that Divine Source or that Divine Light.

In our modern Bible we have a constant reference to the light. Jesus, in His own words, refers more than once to light and dark. Probably one of the best examples of this idea comes from the gospel of John where he opens up with that concept. In the book of John in the first chapter, the first 18 verses are based on the concept of the light versus the darkness. That is set up within the first 5 verses. So he talks about this great battle that goes on. Is this an external battle? No, it is an internal battle. This is a battle that you and I must fight every day, every minute, and we fight that by the decisions we make. We confront the light and the dark by the decisions we make. The higher self or the soul self versus the lower self or the self-serving ego. If you want to use modern terms, you can say it is the objective self versus the subjective self.

It's the eternal battle of the God self against the animal self. The spiritual self against the materialistic self. Today, whether it is in the Christian concept or the metaphysical concept, we look upon this eternal battle as the quest for the Christ Consciousness or the Buddha Consciousness or whatever you recognize as a spiritual entity to emulate or become or to align yourself with. To keep the concept simple we will refer to the term that is most accepted and that is the Christ Consciousness. It is for each of us to obtain that Christ Consciousness. We all have that within us. We all have that ability in us. We all have that potential in us because we were created originally by this Divine Source that we refer to as God. That spark of light, that energy, that vibration, that breath of life that brought you into being and gave you the free-will choice to develop your own personal unique personality is that spark of God, is that Christ Consciousness. We have shadowed it over or we have covered it over, but deep within the very highest part of your being, the core of your essence, your seed is that Christ Consciousness. It is full of love. It is full of compassion and it is full of caring.

We have chosen to move that aside from our consciousness because we have chosen to live what I call a subjective lifestyle or subjective living. What is subjective living? Subjective living is a lifestyle where all decisions are based on "but" and "if." What is "but" and "if"? Buts and ifs are excuses and rationalizations. Excuses and rationalizations. It's very interesting. Recently there was an extensive survey taken in this country. There were a little over 3,700 people surveyed with an extensive questionnaire. These were taken in 50 different places in the United States, and in this survey the biggest percentage answered a questionnaire of 1,800 words, so it wasn't some little survey. The rest were given a questionnaire of a little under 1,500 questions. What they wanted to determine was: is there any kind of common morality in our country today? Was there a moral consensus among the people of the United States today? I was really shocked to realize that over 90% of the people that they surveyed believed that lying on a regular basis was absolutely OK. In fact they did it and their rationalization in telling these lies was, "So what? Everybody does it." Today that has become an accepted practice because we don't listen to that little voice within.

When I was a young man, it was common to hear a little phrase when you did something wrong: "Don't you have a conscience?" How often do you hear that today? With some of the younger people, have they ever heard it? What is that conscience? What is the little voice? That is that God Essence, that is the Christ Consciousness, that says, "Hey, wait a minute. You know that really isn't the right thing to do." Because we lack that Christ Consciousness, we have become people who are full of subjective decisions and life actions. Our lives are full of personal interpretations, personal opinions, and rationalizations. To make it even worse, all these change according to our whims and our desires at the moment we face these decisions. It is much like the breeze on a summer day. You are standing out in a beautiful meadow upon a little hill. One moment the breeze is coming from this side. The next moment it's coming from the front, then the back, and then the other side.

We are governed by desires and whims. Life experiences are determined by ourselves and our actions in life, not the circumstances of our life. We must remember that the Christ Consciousness or the God Consciousness that we wish to achieve is a decision based on objective living incorporating love, compassion, and caring in all decisions and actions that we take. Decisions of life must be based on truthfulness or factual observation. They must be free of any form of bias or prejudice. They must be based on the elimination of all rationalization in our decision. That means no more "buts" or "ifs." "If I only had time, I would have done the job properly." "Well, I was going to do that for you but..."

One thing we must remember is that the Christ Consciousness is a journey, not a destination. In order to achieve this journey we have to come to some realizations. The first realization that we must develop within us before we do anything else is self-esteem. Self-esteem is the essence of all spiritual growth. Self-esteem is a godly love for ourselves as opposed to a self-serving ego or self-serving love. We must realize that we are worthy of this love and respect that we have for ourselves because we are a creation of this Divine Essence or God, because within us we have that initial breath, that spark of life, that God Consciousness, or that Christ Consciousness. Once we accept this, this gives us a dignity that we must maintain because we are a creation of this Divine Source. This gives us honor. This gives us a self-worth based on a godly, wholesome pride. Self-esteem, when we have that, shows that we have a spiritual maturity to ourselves. Once we have self-esteem, the sky's the limit as long as we keep maintaining that self-esteem.

If we can only remember this one little statement: God doesn't make junk. God never has made junk and God never will make junk. Whenever we run across people who have a self-serving ego, we come to realize very quickly that this is a sign of spiritual immaturity. It is much like a little kid whom you take to a candy store. The store is filled with wonderful, delicious chocolate candy and you say to the little boy, "You can have all you want." You walk away and leave the kid alone. He sees all this candy and he just starts shoveling it into his mouth faster than he can chew. His cheeks are puffed out like a little chipmunk. After an hour or so, "Oh, dear. I have a tummy ache." Pretty soon he feels so miserable he is curled up in a little ball. You come in and say, "What's wrong?" and he says, "I ate too much. I don't feel good." You would expect that from a kid because the child is immature. That is an example of spiritual immaturity. Overindulgence. You can understand that in a child but what about an adult?

In our life today we find it very easy to lie. That is the great stumbling block for most people. Lying is a sign of this immaturity. Why do we tell lies? If we were really to be honest with ourselves, why did we do it? In most cases people will tell lies because in telling lies they make themselves look better or appear more important than what they have actually been willing to work for and deserve through honest labor and effort. The other reason, which is a little more insidious, is sometimes we tell lies to destroy other people's reputations or demean them, so it makes me look a little better than that person over there. I don't have to work at it then, if I can convince you that I am better than that person, regardless of how I do it.

When we have reached the end of our rope and we can't take another step forward, and when life seems to us as though we have no purpose left, then this is a great opportunity if we will only see it. It's the opportunity to start over again and turn around or turn over a new page in our life, whether it's yesterday, today, or tomorrow. We all have a mission in life. We all have a purpose in life, and we must realize that only you can fulfill your mission in life. You are so unique that there is only one of you. There never has been another person like you. There never will be another person like you. You can't be replaced by a thousand people. If you were to decide right at this moment to lock yourself in a closet and avoid life for the rest of your natural life, I could not, no matter how hard I try, fulfill one second of your life in an effort to replace what you could offer life. You have the unique opportunity to be able to share yourself with others. I can't do it for you. Nobody else can; nobody else on the face of the earth can share you with others. Only you have that ability. You have something that only you as a unique individual can give to others.

Did you ever stop to think that you might be an extremely vital experience in a person's life? The very fact that they are introduced to you and you can exchange a few words. That may be an experience that is extremely vital at some point in time in that other person's life. Oh, you don't have to spout great wisdoms, but as an individual you must become involved in life. You must be willing to become a shepherd of people by becoming a teacher, a helper, a listener. You must be willing to give others the opportunity to gain in life. You must be willing to become like a networking agent that helps others to better themselves. Regardless of how many words of wisdom or holy words you may have read in your life, regardless of how many you can spout from memory, what good are they to you if you cannot take those very words, those thoughts, those concepts and make them a part of your life so that you yourself act upon those words and live your life in accordance to that wisdom.

The trials of our life are lessons that we have failed to learn in the past. They are the ghosts that come back to revisit us. Although we have made faulty decisions in the past, we now have the opportunity to make better decisions and escape all pain previous choices have brought to our door. Our life is a journey. It's good to know that there's always an end to every journey. We must remember that it is the journey that really counts in the end. Our efforts to achieve a God awareness or God self or Christ Consciousness is a journey that we make, not a destination. Yesterday is nothing more than today's memories. Tomorrow is the dreams of today. I'd like to take this time to close with this final sentence: Tomorrow is composed of the dreams of today. Today let us all begin to dream of a God Consciousness.

## Questions and Answers

Questioner: Society today has a different understanding of the terms that you discussed, especially sin. How and why has this changed from the past understanding?

Bill: It changes because we allow it to change. People are very complacent. It's easier to let someone tell you what things are and what reality is than for you to exercise the energy and the effort to discover reality for yourself. The reason why we have a misunderstanding of such words as sin, which is totally alien to what most people understand as sin, is because we have allowed this concept to be imbedded into our consciousness. We have never challenged anybody. We have never done any homework on the situation, so meanings change because we are complacent. We would sooner be told what to do than to assume the responsibility of it. Our society today is geared into turning us into drones where we just follow the leader. It takes a unique individual to stand up and say, "Hey, wait a minute. Do you really know what you are talking about?" Particularly if it is a recognized authority figure. So we get led down the primrose path that turns into a path of nothing but thorns because we allow it. If we'd stop and think, use the good God-given wisdom and sense that we have, we wouldn't get waylaid along the path.

Questioner: When you were talking about fire and brimstone and the people's changing terminology and so forth, at one time if you agreed to be cremated, your family would just disown you in some religions. Other religions, of course, this it is what they believe in. How does this fire and brimstone relate or does it relate to cremation and what's the view of cremation today?

Bill: It's really an individualized thing. Although there are some fundamentalist religions who don't accept cremation because they think that when you die, you are going to be put in that box and be buried six feet under. You are going to lie there for whatever length of time and all of a sudden some kind of magical thing is going to happen. All that dirt is going to pop away from your casket, and you are going to climb out of there with some new body. So they would be against cremation, but cremation is a personal choice. It makes no difference because the physical body is not you. It's simply a vehicle. It's a tool. The real you is a conscious state being, or as religion calls it, a soul. You are a spirit, and if you really read the Bible and you read the words of Jesus, He is the greatest metaphysician we have had in modern times because He understood the difference between the physical body and the real you, your personality. When we go through the transition of death, we don't change. If you are a nasty person here, just because you die doesn't mean you are going to be full of wisdom and a wonderful person. You are going to be the same kind of person. You grow into a better person. If you are really going to talk about a loving God, then don't you think it is a bit childish to say, "Well, this God loves us so much that He is going to give us x number of years." Today, what is the average life span? 74.5 years. Do you realize that if you go back to the time of the Roman Empire, because of disease and other factors the average life span was 27 years old? That's a historic fact.

If you are going to talk about a loving God, you have to remember that God is always consistent. Man is inconsistent. That's his fallibility. That's his shadowy thinking. You can't say in this hand, "Ah, God loves me like a daddy, and He's going to provide everything for me." Then all of a sudden you go over here and say, "But if I don't do

everything He says, He is going to take my little butt and sit it on a bunch of hot coals and for all eternity I am going to sit there and fry." Then turn around and say, "You know, God really isn't an old man up there. He is a spirit." Jesus, the teacher, the rabbi, said God the father is a spirit. He is like a father. He didn't say he was an old man floating someplace. Where? Another planet out in the clouds just beyond our sight? I have looked through telescopes a dozen times, and I have never seen God sitting out there. In fact, I have never seen an angel out there. So if you are a spirit, what can burn?

Also, the inconsistency of love and punishment. How can this be? If God is all loving, all-forgiving, all-compassionate, how can He say you are going to burn? Take the life expectancy. If it's 74.5 years, can you really expect a loving father to say to you, "You have 70 some years to be a good person, to reach perfection, to be just as wise and loving and compassionate as I am, and if you don't make it in 70 years, well, we just ship your little butt off into the frying pan for an eternity." Is this consistent with an all-loving God? You see. We accept that. We accept that because it is convenient. It's easy. It's easy to say don't do this, don't do that, and that's it. You don't have to think. You don't have to make any kind of intelligent (and I'm not talking about book intelligence) decisions. "Well, if I don't steal, I am not going to burn in hell. If I don't murder, I am not going to burn in hell." What we have learned from The Council in the trances is that there is a right and there is a wrong, but there is an uncountable number of shades of gray in between, and very few of us act in a way so that we can say we are totally wrong or totally right. We all fall in this gray area.

If you have an all-loving God and an all-forgiving God, don't be a hypocrite. Don't make God or this Divine Essence into a hypocrite because you can't see clearly what the facts are. You see this whole idea of cremation is that you are just disposing of something that is no longer useful. It's worn out. It has served its purpose. Sure, treat it with a little respect because it's the last physical remains of someone you may have loved. What makes a difference whether you bury it in the ground, burn it, or dump it off at sea? It has no bearing.

A lot of the reincarnationists will say, "Well, this donor thing is a no-no." In fact I heard at one conference one woman who was supposed to be so well-versed in all this stuff; "This is a conspiracy. If you donate your lungs or your heart or your eyes or your cornea when you die, and then reincarnate you are going to have problems with those organs in your next body." I am not a smart man. I haven't been well educated, but please don't insult my natural intelligence. It's a good rationalization. "Well, she said if I donate my cornea, I am going to have bad eyesight in the next lifetime, so I won't donate my cornea. Oh no, I don't want any more karmic debt next time." Well, you shouldn't be thinking about another karmic debt. You have 70-some years to correct your debt, and the only thing you have to do in correcting your karma is make a good 100% effort in correcting it.

God doesn't talk about success. He says, "Let's take a journey but keep on the path." As long as you cross the finish line, that is all that is important. You don't have to be first, and by adhering to that journey, yeah, once in a while we all fall, but don't lie there and go on a pity party. Get back up and brush off your knees or your backside and go on. That is the key to spiritual accomplishment. Don't ever accept failure. Nobody is perfect. Nobody is going to achieve perfection in this lifetime and dissolve into a wisp of air and be gone. Creation is our making and not God's. We created it because of our

imperfection. He sent out the essences to create all this. We created it because we decided to look into our own shadow to make what we saw in the spiritual realms, a replica of it in some solid or three dimensional form. All you can do is try to reach it. It's the effort that eliminates karmic debt. It's not eliminating the debt that makes the difference. There are some things that we are karmically responsible for that time has passed to such an extent that we just can't correct it. What do you do in that case?

In the lecture I do on karma, I discuss the subject of "If I punch Joe in the nose here, in my next lifetime, in order to correct that karmic debt, he is going to have to come back and punch me in the nose." How do you eliminate karma? It's an unending cycle. If he punches me in the next lifetime so that I correct my karmic debt, he's created a karmic debt so then I am going to have to go in the next lifetime and punch him in the nose. So, you see, the karmic cycle is unending. But people like to hear that because then it is rationalization. It's excuses. It's the "ifs" and the "buts" of reality. "I can't help it if I'm a liar. I came in short-handed. I didn't have everything that Joe over here has. I'm working under limitations so, in order to be as good as Joe, I will just lie a little bit. What the heck? Just a little bit." The problem is that you tell one lie and sooner or later you are going to have to tell another lie to cover the lie you told and pretty soon your whole life is a lie. You don't know what reality is.

Some of this philosophy on personal reality, that's another ego trip. I will tell you, personal reality is stupid. How can you have a personal reality? In essence when you hear some of this hardcore personal reality stuff, that means that I am the one that's alive and real. You people are all phantoms who have come here to serve my purpose in growth. You people don't exist. You are non-entities. You are a phantom in my reality. Well, you guys could say the same about me and everyone else in here. So what is this personal reality? Personal reality is a hokey thing and just an excuse to sit on my backside and do nothing. I am going to take and not give. I don't have to help that homeless person because that is my personal reality. Yes, that is a homeless person. That is as far as my responsibility is. You stripped yourself of a great dignity. You stripped yourself of your own self-respect because you haven't taken into consideration that the homeless person is a human being. It suffers pain and sorrow just like you. It suffers from hunger just like you. It thirsts for water just like you. It is a human being. It isn't an "it." Therefore just as you want dignity for yourself, you must give that person dignity by recognizing that human being and helping that human being on the terms that person needs not on the terms of when it's convenient for you. "Oh, I'm too busy right now to ask that guy if he needs anything because I have to go down here to a meeting." Hey, I will tell you something I learned in life and traveling around and speaking. If you have a job to do, go to the busiest person you know and they will get the job done. A person who has a lot of time has a lot of time because they don't want to do anything. They have their own agenda. I'm going to do this and this and this and to hell with everything else. You want a job done? You go to a worker, not someone who looks like they have their job done and is ready for the next one. A worker, a go-getter, is a person who is always working because they don't wait until they are finished with a job before they go hunting for the next one.

All from cremating a body. (Laughter)