

Cornerstones

This is the transcription of a lecture that Mr. LePar presented at one of the Universal Being Conferences. We plan to publish a book containing all of his lectures shortly.

In order to convey understanding or truths to each other we are chained and 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 or attitude that is being conveyed. I remember as a kid, to show you how unstable our vocabulary is and how unstable words are – when I was a very young kid and was 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” and then say a hundred years or a thousand years later some archeologist would come along, digging in some rubble and find this wall with “Jean Ann is a cool chick.” The archeologist may look at that and say “Well, gee whiz. They had a little chicken who they called Jean Ann and the poor little peep must have shivered and been cold all the time” which was completely out of text and not even in the ballpark 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 and understandings 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 out right up front 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 the Muslim, regardless. These basic concepts run through all of the major belief systems in our present day and in the past. The first word I would like to address and that in most cases will strike fear in some people’s minds and in other people’s minds it’s just so much verbiage. That word is sin. What is sin? Being raised a good Catholic little boy I went to catechism and the good sisters taught right and wrong through the Baltimore Catechism and to them when they tried to convey sin to us they said “Well, 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, and has a family, and he wants to feed that family, he goes into a local grocery store and robs it of some bread and some meat and some vegetables. He gets caught. He is going to get about 20 years in imprisonment but another guy can come along and he can rob us of millions of dollars such as the savings and loan scandal and be 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 4-5 years. If that isn’t an insult he also doesn’t even really 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 to us is the concept of separation. Because of the use of words we have lost that understanding.

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'll see some of these people who go around saying "Oh, I'm such a terrible sinner. I've got to repent. I've 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've got to repent of their sin. The real meaning of repentance is to turn around, to change direction, to reverse course.

The third word is salvation. Again, going to traditional Christianity, when we hear the word salvation, we are such terrible things, such terrible beings that we must be saved. Saved from what? Saved from the fires of hell because we are so evil, so bad that we must be purged of all that if we don't purge ourselves in an eternal fire. If we go just to the Christian bible and we read the word repentance the concept that was to be conveyed to us 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.

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 or 5,000 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 the 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 really 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. It was a constant burning there and 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 this dark smoke and it casts a shadow over the land. It darkens the land.

The traditionalists or the fundamentalists or 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 nether world, in Shoal, in the land of shadows, there is a burning but it's not a physical burning. Let me show you something. We all know fire. If I take this match here and I want to create fire. I want to burn something. I have to have something to burn and I strike this and this 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 and that's where their body is. 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 the fire consuming the trash. When happens when we enter the land of Shoal or Hell is that we realize that we have lived a less than perfect life so that goodness in us has that strong desire to realize its mistakes. So it pursues itself in a quest of self-discovery. What mistakes did I make and what realizations can I come to and 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's ever been on the face of the earth. They have used different words but it's the same principle. Shoal 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 and 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 and 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 Tibetans writings in the Himalayas and they were

estimating that these writings were in the area of maybe 3,000 – 5,000 years old but in these writings they made reference back, believe it or not, as far as 25,000 years ago. In those writings they talked about the light vs. 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 within there you are going to see these same concepts – the light vs. 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 in the gospel of John where he opens up with that concept. In the book of 1st John in the letter he starts out. The first 18 verses are based on the concept of the light vs. the darkness and that is set up within the first 4 or 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 vs. the lower self or the self-serving ego. If you want to use modern terms you can say it is the objective self vs. 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 as 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 God consciousness or 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 God consciousness or 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. About a year and a half ago 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 of them answered a questionnaire of 1,800 words so it wasn't some fluffy little survey. It was an extensive one. The rest were given a questionnaire or asked questions of something 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 and surprised to realize that over 90% of the people that they surveyed believed that lying on a regular basis every day was absolutely ok. In fact they did it and their rationalization in telling these lies was “So what?” Everybody does it and it’s 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 here, have they ever heard it? What is that conscience? What is the little voice? That is that God essence, that 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 a person who is 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, 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 or bias or prejudice and have 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. First of all the realization that we must get firm within us before we do anything else is self-esteem. Self-esteem is the essence of all spiritual growth. Self-esteem. What is it? Self-esteem is a godly love for yourself as opposed to a self-serving ego or self-serving love. You must realize that you are worthy of this love and respect that you have for yourself because you are a creation of this Divine Essence or God because within you you 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 an honor. This gives us a self-worth based on a godly wholesome pride. Self-esteem, when you have that, shows that you have a spiritual maturity to yourself. Once you have self-esteem the sky’s the limit as long as you keep maintaining that self-esteem.

If we can only remember this one little statement – God or the Divine Essence 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 who you take to a candy store. It's filled with all kinds of wonderful delicious chocolate candy and you say to the little boy "You can have all you want." You walk away and you leave the kid alone. He sees all this candy and he just starts shoveling into his mouth faster than what he can chew up. His cheeks are puffed out like a little chipmunk. After an hour or so, "Oh, dear. I have a tummy ache" and 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 our great stumbling block for most people. Lying is a sign of this immaturity. Why do we tell lies? I would bet any amount of money that every one of us has told at least one little white lie. 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 better or more important than what they have 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 guy 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've 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 in it then this is a great opportunity if we'll 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've 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.

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've never done any homework on the situation so they 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 it because they think that when you die you are going to be put in that box and be buried six feet under and you are going to lay 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 first class nasty person here just because you die doesn't mean you are going to be full of wisdom or a real goody two-shoes. You are going to be the same kind of person. You grow into a better person. That is why the common sense idea about death and life is that 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 a whole x number of years." Today, what is the average life span? 85, 87, something. How much? Ok, that's even better. 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.

Now, 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 you like a little daddy and He's going to provide everything for you" and then all of a sudden you go over here and say "But if you don't do everything He says He is going to take your little fanny and sit you on a bunch of hot coals and for all eternity you are going to sit there and fry" and 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've never seen God sitting out there. In fact I've 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 compassion, 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 me and if you don't make it in 70 years, well we just ship your little old fanny off into the frying pan for an eternity." Now is this consistent with an all loving God? Come on! 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 have my buns burning in hell. If I don't murder I am not going to have my buns burning in hell." But you see 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 into a hypocrite or this Divine Essence 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 but 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; she said "This is a conspiracy. If you donate your lungs or your heart or your eyes or your cornea when you die when you reincarnate you are going to have problems with those organs in your next body." How asinine can you get? Come on. I mean 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, hell, you shouldn't be thinking about another karmic debt. You got 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 lay there and go on a pity party like some of these religions do. Get back off your dead duff 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. Let's face it. Creation is our making and not God's 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. You can't reach perfection in this lifetime. All you can do is try to. 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?

The lecture I do on karma, I discuss this whole thing about well now look if I punch Joe in the schnoz 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 schnoz. 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 himself 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 it's 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'll just lie a little bit. What the heck? Just a little bit." But you see the problem is that you tell one lie and sooner or later you are going to have to take 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 stupid trip. I'll tell you it's stupid. How can you have a personal reality? That means in essence when you hear some of this hardcore personal reality crap 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're non-entities. You are a phantom in my reality. Well, ten to one you guys could say the same about me and everyone else in here. So what is this personal reality? It's a hokey thing and just an excuse to (excuse my French) sit on my dead ass 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 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'll tell you something I learned in life and traveling around and speaking. If you've got a job to do go to the busiest person you know and they'll 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've got 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've got 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)