

“Claiming My ‘Peace’ of Heaven in 2011”

Today’s Lesson

Stairway to Heaven

*PowerPoint notes are available at
www.unityofbakersfield.com*

Stairway to Heaven

When asked when God’s kingdom would appear on earth Jesus responded, *“The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Lo, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”* (Luke 17:21)

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In other words: all the good, all the blessings, all the peace, all the health, all the prosperity we could ever desire or want is already ours—right here, right now.

So why is it so hard for us to realize this metaphor for ourselves?

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We were never taught to look for it in the “here and now.”

Most of us were taught that heaven was always someplace we went after we died, if we were good.

We were taught that heaven was a physical place in the sky. However...

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...The concept of God setting up his kingdom here on earth is one that has taken root in the consciousness of western religion and embedded itself in our beliefs about this place we call heaven. A concept that Jesus never taught!

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Jesus used many parables, precepts, metaphors, and idioms as he traveled the countryside to teach his new ideas and concepts about God.

When we study the teachings and look at them using our spiritual eyes we find that it’s all about changing how we “see” through ego’s eyes...

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...It's about changing how we view the world and our relationship to it. Developing a spiritual consciousness takes practice, but it can be done. Today's lesson on Stairway to Heaven gives us some steps to use so we can the experience of heaven all around us.

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Attitude of Mind

Paul's letter to the Philippians states: *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*

To the Romans he spoke these words: *Be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind.*

Everything starts with a thought: *"I think, therefore I am."*

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Embracing Spiritual Law

The law of mind action – karma – cause and effect.

"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:35-38

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We Are All Players

Each of us is here by divine right and design. We each have a part to play in the development of race consciousness. *The things I have done you will do also and greater will you do.* - Jesus

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Purify Your Intent

The lady known to the world as Peace Pilgrim once said, *"Your motive, the intent by which you live your life, must be simply, one of service generated by love."*

Every manifestation has behind it an intent, the reason for the manifestation.

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Relinquish all Attachments

We attach ourselves to all sorts of things because we believe on some level that these attachments help to define who we are. I am my job, I am my position, I am my clothes, my home, my car, my friends, my kids...and the loss of these things brings pain and suffering.

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Practice Forgiveness

Jesus said to him, *“I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.”*

In her book, Teach Us to Love, Donna D’Ingillo states: *Your ability to forgive others is directly proportional to the degree you will advance spirituality.*

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Heaven is everywhere present because it is the realm of Divine Mind; a state of consciousness in man’s mind, body, and affairs. - Charles Fillmore.

All we have to do is claim it for ourselves as our divine birthright. After all... *It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*