

Spiritual Economics

Session 5 of 6

1

Follow-up question ...

- My basic question is this: what is the difference between God and substance. I'm not sure my question was clear.

4

A Question from a student...

- If God is everywhere present and in everything, then my logic says God and substance are one and the same. God is Spirit and manifest as material objects and human life, plant life, animal life, all life. Substance is Spirit and manifest likewise. What's the difference?

2

Answer to the follow-up question

- Good question! The short answer is that different words speak to different aspects, activities, or ways of perceiving or relating to God or whatever name people use to describe Ultimate Reality.
- Some people find it helpful to use different words to describe the different ways they experience the presence or activity of God. Others don't.
- Always use what works for you.
- As a minister or teacher, of course, a person needs to be aware of different approaches. In your personal practice, though, always use what works best for you.

5

My response...

- The difference might be looked at in the same way differences in frequency between sound or light waves. It has been said that everything is light vibrating at a different frequency. If we consider substance and light to be equivalents of a sort, then we have an image of how God Substance expresses differently as different creatures.
- Substance is one of an infinite number of ways to speak of God or The One or Ultimate Reality.

3

I appreciated this dialogue more than I can say!

- In my opinion, it's in the give and take of interactions like these that the greatest learning takes place for both students and teachers.
- The discussion about spiritual Substance brings up an even more basic question that I'm now asking all of you.
- It's a three-part question.

6

Part One: How do you perceive God or Ultimate Reality?

- Do you perceive God as a Supreme Being located pretty much outside of yourself?
- Do you perceive God as “Beingness” or “Being Itself?” If this is your perception, where is this Beingness located?
- Are you simply aware of “something greater than your human self” without pursuing the question much further than that?
- Do you have a different perception of God or Ultimate Reality that you’d like to share with the group?

7

Also please remember...

- **Prosperity is a state of consciousness**, not a financial condition.
- **Every person is responsible for his/her prosperity consciousness.** Although we cannot control the events of our lives, we can and do control how we respond to those events and circumstances. Because we have the ability to respond, we are “response-able.”
- **To the degree that we become the conscious executive directors of our thoughts, feelings, and actions**, we build a strong prosperity consciousness.
- **RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE** is the only place from which you can build a prosperity consciousness. “I will be prosperous when...” is a self-defeating thought. Regardless of your circumstances, you can begin developing a prosperity consciousness HERE and NOW.

10

Part Two: How do you relate to your perception of God?

- Do you experience a closeness that sometimes can be called Oneness?
- Do you experience a feeling that God cares deeply for you?
- Do you experience a feeling that God is sometimes or maybe even often disappointed you?
- Do you experience God through your interaction with people, animals, nature?
- Do you experience God in more than one of these ways?
- Do you experience God in some other way?
- Do you not experience God consciously at all?

8

- **Gratitude – the Great-Full-Mind-And-Heart** – is an essential building block of a prosperity consciousness. We are NOT talking about being “thankful for” any particular thing, but about a generally positive, joyous attitude toward life.
- **The Universe owes you a living.** All that is necessary for every person to thrive and prosper is available and needs only to “be unlocked.”
- **You owe the world a life.** Each of us has the responsibility to make the most effective use we can of the resources available to us to build a life that contributes to the upliftment of our world, its creatures, and its environment.

11

Part Three: Is your God-Awareness Evolving?

- Over the course of your life as you remember it, or even over the course of the past few years, has your awareness of God changed, evolved in any way?
- If you have experienced an evolution in your God awareness, can you describe how your awareness has changed?

9

- **Nine: The Money Enigma**
- Have I had a time of financial stringency and cried out, “I need money”? Actually, it could be said that my money needs me! ... if I consciously imbue my money with the idea of abundance, it will begin to work for me in a positive way. Suddenly the seemingly little supply becomes dynamic seed money, giving rise to unbelievable increase.
- More than money I need faith. I need a flow of creativity. I need ideas.
- **I always have within me the inlet that may become the outlet to all there is in God.**

12¹²

What is money?

- Money is an enabling symbol. It is a tangible representation of intangible Universal substance, which enables you to provide food, shelter, clothing, entertainment, books, leisure, and security against want.
- How does it do this? You do not build your house out of paper dollars, and you don't eat the coins. Money is an enabling symbol that gives rise to faith and trust, credit and cooperation, which starts a flow of activity.

13 ¹³

Money doesn't always represent abundance

- It seems logical to assume that money always represents abundance, but it doesn't.
- For most persons, at least much of the time, money is a symbol of lack. We tend to think of it in relationship to what we would like to have or think we should have.
- For instance, the figure on your paycheck may well symbolize to you injustice ("they don't pay me enough"), unappreciation ("they are not aware of how valuable I am to the company"), and insufficiency ("how can I live on this salary with all the rising costs?").

16 ¹⁶

- I take fifty dollars and hand it to the grocer and he gives me some food. He gives the money to the food distributors, and they to the suppliers, and they to the farmer, who uses the money to buy seed and feed.
- Round and round it goes in a process that we call the economy. But in back of it all comes the basic substance of life, harnessed and directed by the activity of faith

14 ¹⁴

Green side up!

- Remember, your money is an extension of you. It is a symbol of limitation or of limitlessness according to how you think while you use it.
- When you receive or spend money, "think green," and as you handle it, "keep the green side up." (Speaking figuratively, of course.) In other words, keep your identity with money as a symbol of limitless God substance.

17 ¹⁷

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15 ¹⁵

Your money needs you

- ...your money needs your creative ideas to become of use to you. It needs your faith and your vision.
- You see, you always have this vital choice. You may not have nearly enough money to meet the need, but you always have within you *the inlet that may become the outlet to all there is in God*.
- As you "turn the green side up" and become centered in the divine flow, you create the condition in consciousness that makes the result inevitable.
- You are never further than one idea away from all the wealth in the Universe.

18 ¹⁸

- **Ten: Discover the Wonder of Giving**

- Meister Eckhart gives the key that unlocks the true meaning of John 3:16: "God never begot but one son, but the eternal is forever begetting the only-begotten" ... there is that of me, the whole person of me, which is begotten only of God. ... What a transcendent idea, that I have my own unique flow of the divine!
- In my spiritual quest, I am seeking to establish myself in a unitive relationship with the divine flow. I can never really achieve this level of consciousness until giving becomes the main thrust of my life.

19¹⁹

A unitive relationship with the flow

- You cannot make any sense out of life, or realize the free flow of substance in your experience, until you begin to see yourself as a giver.
- It may mean a complete turnaround in your approach to life, where you think "give" instead of "get."
- In your spiritual quest, you are seeking to establish yourself in a unitive relationship with the divine flow. You can never really achieve this level of consciousness until giving becomes the main thrust of your life.
- And when it does, when you discover the wonder of giving, you become, unblushingly, an incurable giver.
- Meditate long on this point, for it is one of the most important keys of the prosperity law.

22²²

The taker

- The *taker* is the person who believes that his life will always be the total of what he can get from the world.
- He is always thinking get, get, get. He plans and schemes ways to get what he wants in money, in love, in happiness, and in all kinds of good.
- No matter that he may be applying metaphysical techniques, he still may very well be a taker.
- But whatever may be his spiritual ideals or lack of any, no matter what he takes, he can never know peace or security or fulfillment.

20²⁰

Life is a giving process

- Life for the whole person is a giving process. We are not talking specifically about church giving, giving to charity, etc. There are many channels through which your giving may be funneled.
- We are talking about attitudes toward life, the basic awareness that life is a matter of developing or unfolding from within.
- It is knowing that life is not something to get but something to express. It is the fulfilling awareness that your business is always the express business, no matter what name your worldly vocation may bear.

23²³

The giver

- The *giver*, on the other hand, is convinced that life is a giving process.
- Thus, his subtle motivation in all his ways is to give himself away, in love, in service, and in all the many helpful ways he can invest himself.
- He is always secure, for he intuitively knows that his good flows from within.

21²¹

- If you want to work for the kind of consciousness that will maintain you in the giving flow, begin every day with the commitment:
- *I will do what I do better and better and better;*
- *And I will do more and more of what I do.*

24²⁴

A truly giving consciousness

- A truly giving consciousness is the creative alternative to the current emphasis on winning through intimidation, or succeeding through positive selfishness. It is the better way.
- And a committed giver is an incurably happy person, a secure person, a satisfied person, and a prosperous person