



Unity Church of Christianity  
Your Place in this World  
March 27, 2011

### **Howard Caesar**

Let it be known that each of you is a glorious, beautiful, radiant being of God. That is your true nature. It is clear to me, and it should be clear to you that you have a place in this world. That's why you're here. You have a contribution to make to the world simply by being here. The contribution that we are here to make is predicated upon the progress that we make in our own spiritual consciousness. We come into this world to be about that. As the song goes, "I am changing; I am changing." We're here to be in the path of transformation and move along the path of awakening.

We can ask ourselves questions about how much we are changing and check within ourselves. How much inner growth do we feel we are experiencing and giving ourselves to? How much of the goodness of God have we discovered inside of ourselves, having discovered God within ourselves as well? How much good do we create in our lives as a result of having moved beyond issues of inner-conflict and suffering? How much have we replaced our fears with a sense of faith? How much has our thought atmosphere changed, to where we are more filled with the positive, the radiant, the truth, and that which is constructive and whole in thought? How much have we been able to shift into loving ourselves and loving all humanity, because we know that we are love and have this love for God, and God is love in us? How much have we silenced the

ego and allowed the voice of the Holy Spirit to speak loud and clear to us? How much have we moved into our spiritual identity, where we face various difficulties in the world? How much are we in a spiritual vibration during the course of a day? How much have we changed?

These are questions emphasizing that it is no accident that you are here in the world, on this earth, at this time. Your life has purpose, which is to evolve and expand and broaden spiritually—not just to benefit yourself, but the whole of humanity. We teach that we're all interconnected. Any stride that you make individually impacts the whole. To really grasp that allows a sense of dedication to the process of discovering what you're about.

The fact that we are here to evolve and are in this process is brought out in Jesus' first parable. It established a roadmap of consciousness. In that parable you can find yourself at any time—where you are—in your process of unfoldment. It was the Parable of the Sower. A multitude of people gathered around as He told about this sower who went forth and sowed seeds. Some seeds fell on the wayside where birds ate them. Others were sowed in stony places where there was not enough depth to the soil, so the seeds sprouted quickly. As soon as the sun came out though, they were scorched and withered away quickly. Some fell among thorns and were choked off. Some were in good soil and brought forth fruit—some 100-fold, some 60-fold, some 30-fold.

When He completed that, He said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” The disciples were quick to question, “Why are you talking to us in parables?” Jesus' response related to the law of consciousness. He said, “Some of the mysteries of the kingdom of the presence of God are given to some. To some, they are not given. For whoever has, more shall be given, and whoever has not, that which he has will be taken away.” That is the law of consciousness. To paraphrase, I think He was saying that whoever has integrated the truth—whoever has grasped the truth and expanded their consciousness—shall be given more. But he who has not embraced and integrated that which has come his way will wither and fall away. Even that which you've been given—in terms of the truth—can be taken away if you're not living it. It can wither and die until you replant those seeds within your consciousness.

Our mind—our consciousness—is the soil that these seeds are planted in. Each of us has our own mind and an individual consciousness. They're of different composition and quality, and we're all at different stages of development. The analogy is that human beings make variable responses to spiritual truths that come into their lives. Some could care less. Some are really intent. Every person's mind or consciousness has its own history, conditioning, training, and past.

Jesus went on to explain in the parable that the seeds which fall by the wayside are those which the birds have eaten. They represent those who are unresponsive and have hardened in their opinions and beliefs. There's no flexibility or sense of openness. The seeds that fall on stony ground are those minds which are not able to follow through or persevere. There's no depth, so these truths don't become rooted. They're very shallow, and when a tribulation comes along, they overtake us. We forget about living from these truths. The seeds that fall among thorns—if

we do not maintain our spiritual disciplines, then the thorns will grow up and choke off the truth in us. The bottom line is that he who has good soil, receives these teachings, takes them deeply, and is integrating and practicing daily disciplines comes to a level of understanding deep within them. Now more will be given, because they have sought to live what they have come to understand, and they will bear fruit in their lives as a result.

Jesus is talking about consciousness here. The goal we should have is to grow in consciousness and put on the mind that was in Christ Jesus, so that we do not have a mind that masters us, but we are mastering our mind. That's a different shift, and that's what it's about—our part of the growth of unfoldment.

Traditional Christianity has tended to say that the goal is to get to heaven. They also say that you cannot get there until you die. Not everyone is happy about that, because you have to die in order to get to heaven. You avoid dying, but you want to get to heaven. The masters and mystics taught something different: heaven is here, wherever God is. God is omnipresent. There's a oneness with God that you can have at any moment in time, wherever you are. If God is everywhere as a presence, then the experience of heaven is everywhere. It is a potential for anyone at anytime, whether it is here or in the hereafter. The tendency is to think that heaven has to suddenly drop in over the entire earth, or you can't experience it—an all-or-nothing deal. The truth is that there are people in pockets that experience elements of the kingdom of heaven—the absolute presence of God.

Imagine that you were taken to a place where you were isolated and went to a chapel, and there was a mystic there waiting for you. When you got there, you could feel that the small chapel was vibrating with spiritual energy. You would absorb into the consciousness of that individual—that your atmospheres almost merged, and you heard this person speak a few truths to you. They just vibrated through your soul and took you to another place. They told you to close your eyes and led you through a brief mediation. All of a sudden you were moved into a place of incredible bliss. Feeling the presence of God, your heart burst open, feeling love like you've never known before, feeling the love for all creation, like you are expansive and your being went beyond the universe. The energy of love was there with a peace beyond all understanding. The joy of the Lord was really upon you. You were essentially in heaven in that moment in that chapel. At the same time you were there, outside that room there still remained a variety of experiences—good and not good. There were wars and conflicts, but heaven came to earth right there, and you experienced it.

Our goal is to create the energies of heaven on earth. It is possible for us to bring dimensions of that into being, so don't deny that it can't happen. Don't let your mind take you there. It is a role that we are to play. There are two important questions that are asked continually: Who am I, and where am I going? When you understand spiritual consciousness, that's answered there. In fact, the parable that Jesus shared was like a map that takes you.

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Ken Wilber, a writer, teacher, and philosopher, talks about a spectrum of consciousness which can be viewed as a map and can be used to help us locate where we are and help us find out where we are going. Jesus also gave us a map of higher consciousness. You move that way by eliminating all of your inner-conflicts and sufferings. The map steers us toward peace, love, and joy through the principles and seeds He planted for us to embrace.

The work that is before us—that we're all called to do—has to do with a transformation of consciousness. We ask ourselves, "Am I changing?" It's not to beat yourself over the head, but to joyously enter into this, because you know that's why you've come.

We tend to focus on other people's consciousness. We get distracted and occupied with how we can "fix" someone else. Actually, all of the work needs to be done within our own selves. There is a lot of upheaval in the world today. People want their freedoms, so people are reaching out for change. There are economies caving in. The whole state of humanity is often a reflection of the collective human psyche. There are, at times, things that get out of balance. We could site many examples. I recently read that 1% of the world's population owns 40% of the world's wealth, and 3.5 billion people—almost half of the population—own just 1% of the world's wealth.

We can diagnose all of the problems and crises in the world, but at the root of it all, it's a spiritual crisis. It always comes back to the spirit. What are the principles that can be applied? What ones are being ignored? What ones are being dusted aside for the birds to eat? Which ones are people really taking to heart?

In the book of Genesis there is the story of creation. We are told that Adam fell into a deep sleep. You can read throughout the rest of the Bible, and nowhere does it tell us that he ever woke up. It is not mentioned because it hasn't happened. You and I, as a collective humanity, have taken on the name of Adam. Adam represents humanity. It's important to devote ourselves to spiritually waking up—to be moving into transformation and growth and to help the whole.

Robert Brumet is a Unity minister and author and teacher. In one of his books he talks about the progression of humanity from the time the earth was formed 4 billion years ago. He takes you through the path of evolution. Science tells us that for more than 2 billion years we were just a single-celled creature. Then a billion years later, we developed a backbone. About 2 million years ago, we took on the present form as a primate and learned to walk upright and use tools and speech. About 200,000 years ago, we became homosapiens—wise man. We developed science, music, and poetry. We began to discover ourselves. Then 100,000 years ago, we become homosapiens-sapiens—wise-wise man. We began to understand that we understand. We began to be aware that we are aware. All of that is a progression of the evolution within us. From that is the point at which we begin to awaken. We awaken from some of the illusions that have kept us asleep and addicted to the inner-conflicts and sufferings.

Along this path, came the story—the allegory—speaking of humanity getting the name “Adam.” It’s the story of Adam and Eve. We lived in paradise with our partner, Eve. The story says we were expelled from this paradise for disobedience. Robert Brumet says, “So it seems that you did disobey the Lord, but there is another more important reason you needed to leave—you grew up.” Basically, you came to the place where you were no longer a creature, and you were ready to become a co-creator. You might say that you graduated from this garden. Eve ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge—of good and evil. She ate of it because it was a delight for the eyes to see, as scripture says. It was to be desired to make one wise. In other words, you could become wise and have knowledge of good and evil. In verse 22 of the third chapter of this story, God states, “Lord God said, ‘See, man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil.’ ”

I wonder who the “us” was that He was talking to at that point, if man was the first. That’s another topic. It’s a story that from one perspective is telling us that the purpose of our creation in the physical world is to know both good and evil, both right and wrong, both pleasure and pain. By experiencing these polarities in life we begin to awaken. We begin to make choices that move us toward one and away from the other. We are awake and aware. We are co-creating our own experience in this world. As one learns to listen within for the will of God and embrace the seeds of the truth, allowing them to go deep into the soil of consciousness, they begin to be more of a light in the world. They begin to feel the resonance of the energies of the Divine. They begin to make these choices in the world of polarity and move and evolve further toward the good inherent within them. From polarities there is always choice. The choices we make help us move toward awakening in consciousness.

Part of the path of evolution of spiritual consciousness includes knowing the realm of the formless—the invisible—while living in the world of form. That’s the challenge that we face. You are to know yourself as limited, because you have a limited physical body. Your body will die. It is mortal and temporal. You live in a physical world with limitations. At the same time as you know of limits within your physical form, you know yourself as unlimited. You have access to an unlimited presence and power—a power of love, light, and goodness that is beyond form that you’re able to draw upon. That’s what we’re thrust into at all times in this world. At the same time as I live in a world of form—with pain, conflict, disease, death, war, evils, and limitations—I also have access to knowing that there is a part of me that is unlimited. There’s a part of you and every being that is unlimited. We live in a universe that is unlimited. When people go through earthquakes and tsunamis in the physical form, our evolution in consciousness gets us to that place where we feel pain. At the same time, there’s another part of me that knows there’s unlimitedness in this universe beyond what I see. There is a dynamic of the Divine at work. To hold on to that knowing is where we become co-creators. We help berth a greater reality by knowing and keeping a grasp on the unlimited in the midst of experiencing limited.

At the same time as we have to deal with the fact that we have physical bodies that are limited, we have spiritual bodies as well, as Paul stated. There is a dimension of you that is unlimited.

There is an Italian who spoke 500 years ago at a convention of scholars. He spoke as if God was speaking to us. He said,

You who are confined by no limits shall determine for yourself your own nature in accordance with your own free will in whose hand I have placed you. I have set you at the center of the world so that from there you may more easily survey whatever is in the world. We have made you neither earthly nor heavenly, neither mortal nor immortal, so that more freely and more honorably, the molder and maker of yourself—you—may fashion yourself in whatever form you shall prefer. You shall be able to descend among the lower forms of being, which are brute beasts. You shall be able to be reborn out of the judgment of your own soul into the higher beings, which are Divine.

Everyone on the planet is on a pathway of making choices in the realm of polarity. You can go one way or another. There is a map that has been laid down by Jesus Christ and other masters and mystics. You can either go in the direction of being a beast with hate and separation, or you can feel the pulse beat of the truth, and take them deep into the soil of your being and move toward that which is of higher beings of the Divine. That decision is there for all of us. We're all sowers, sowing seeds into a collective soup of human and spiritual consciousness. We can help our world by moving toward our deepest inner-self of the Divine. We're all called up to higher places in consciousness. We're both limited and unlimited. We are both mortal and immortal. We're here to experience both oneness and separation. We're here to experience both reality and illusion. From there we make a choice.

Richard Bach, the author of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and *Illusions*, said, "Don't believe what your eyes are telling you. All they show is limitation. Look with your understanding. Find out what you already know, and you'll see the way to fly." There's a part of you that wants to fly. Get serious about that. Touch that part of you. From it all, we step into the realization that we are co-creators with God, and we are ready to step into partnership with the unlimited—with the Divine. We really are here to sow the seeds of heaven in our own corner of the world. So go be a light in the world. Bring a little heaven. God bless you all.