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[Previous Section](#)

[Next Section](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Search the Course](#)

[We invite you to comment on this section.](#)

[The Little Garden Home](#)

26. CAN GOD BE REACHED DIRECTLY?

M-26.1. God indeed can be reached directly, for there is no distance between Him and His Son. 2 His awareness is in everyone's memory, and His Word is written on everyone's heart. 3 Yet this awareness and this memory can arise across the threshold of recognition only where all barriers to truth have been removed. 4 In how many is this the case? 5 Here, then, is the role of God's teachers. 6 They, too, have not attained the necessary understanding as yet, but they have joined with others. 7 This is what sets them apart from the world. 8 And it is this that enables others to leave the world with them. 9 Alone they are nothing. 10 But in their joining is the power of God.

M-26.2. There are those who have reached God directly, retaining no trace of worldly limits and remembering their own Identity perfectly. 2 These might be called the

Teachers of teachers because, although they are no longer visible, their image can yet be called upon. 3 And they will appear when and where it is helpful for them to do so. 4 To those to whom such appearances would be frightening, they give their ideas. 5 No one can call on them in vain. 6 Nor is there anyone of whom they are unaware. 7 All needs are known to them, and all mistakes are recognized and overlooked by them. 8 The time will come when this is understood. 9 And meanwhile, they give all their gifts to the teachers of God who look to them for help, asking all things in their name and in no other.

M-26.3. Sometimes a teacher of God may have a brief experience of direct union with God. 2 In this world, it is almost impossible that this endure. 3 It can, perhaps, be won after much devotion and dedication, and then be maintained for much of the time on earth. 4 But this is so rare that it cannot be considered a realistic goal. 5 If it happens, so be it. 6 If it does not happen, so be it as well. 7 All worldly states must be illusory. 8 If God were reached directly in sustained awareness, the body would not be long maintained. 9 Those who have laid the body down merely to extend their helpfulness to those remaining behind are few indeed. 10 And they need helpers who are still in bondage and still asleep, so that by their awakening can God's Voice be heard.

M-26.4. Do not despair, then, because of limitations. 2 It is your function to escape from them, but not to be without them. 3 If you would be heard by those who suffer, you must speak their language. 4 If you would be a savior, you must understand what needs to be escaped. 5 Salvation is not theoretical. 6 Behold the problem, ask for the answer, and then accept it when it comes. 7 Nor will its coming be long delayed. 8 All the help you can accept will be provided, and not one need you have will not be met. 9 Let us not, then, be too concerned with goals for which you are not ready. 10 God takes you where you are and welcomes you. 11 What more could you desire, when this is all you need?

[Previous Section](#)

[Next Section](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Search the Course](#)

[We invite you to comment on this section.](#)

[The Little Garden Home](#)