

CLASS: TWELVE – DECODING AND LIVING ACIM
WEEK TWELVE - GENERAL HANDOUT #1

WK #12 Handout # 1

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Exercise: Reclaiming your divine birthright
OR

Opening prayer: from ACIM T.2.5.18

“ I am here only to be truly helpful. I am here to represent Him Who sent me. I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do, because He Who sent me will direct me. I am content to be wherever He wishes, knowing He goes there with me. I will be healed as I let Him teach me to heal. And so it is.

Discuss wk # 11 Homework: Goal Setting Exercise
Review last week's terms: Decision-maker

How is peace possible in this world?

The course states that peace indeed seems impossible here. Yet, God has promised peace to His Children. ACIM states that in order to find the Peace of God, we must relinquish all judgments. The question about the search for peace now becomes different. It now becomes a question of correcting our false perception of what we “see” in our world of provisional reality. The world of perception is not real. It is a world originally created to deny our true identity. The peace of God cannot be found in an illusion. ACIM states that we need to be vigilant for God. We must guard against all trappings of the ego's thought system, which perpetuates the false belief in separateness. We must be equally vigilant against both a dream that appears to bring misery and a dream that appears to “make us happy.” To substitute fiction for reality because we have entered into a false state of “happiness” and relative calmness is not the goal of the course. We need to go beyond the appearance of “non-painful or happy dreams” and still be vigilant only for God. Jesus said that what made him different from others is that he only wanted a relationship with God. Jesus only wanted to know the truth. Only in the real world, which is Level # 1, will we know the peace of God.

Reference: M-11.4.4 It is not the world that makes peace seem impossible. 5 It is the world you see that is impossible.

ACIM makes it clear that it is our world of provisional reality that is impossible. This world of perception is not a world made by God. Rather, it is a place that we dreamt up in order to forget what we truly are, which is the oneness of unlimited spirit. The ego's world of illusion is our attempt to exclude God from His Creation. This world comes at the price of trying to deny God's unconditional Love for us, His Sonship. It results in a loss of happiness and peace due to our desire to be right. When we drop all our judgments about this world, which is based on sin, guilt and fear, this world will disappear as we awaken from our nightmarish dream of separation. We will recognize this dream as being an unreal illusion. The belief in separation and specialness will fade away into the

nothingness from which it arose. The correction of our perception is inevitable for those who offer peace and forgiveness instead of war and attack. ACIM request that we drop all personal judgments and accept God's Judgment as our truth. This is God's Judgment: The Sonship is God's creation, perfect, whole and complete. We are, and always will be, perfect as God created us.

After this realization, God will take the final step and return us to the real world, (Level #1 or Heaven) which is based on Knowledge, not individual perception.

Reference: M-11.4.11 Now is the question different. 12 It is no longer, "Can peace be possible in this world?" but instead, "Is it not impossible that peace be absent here?"

Are there any accidents in our dream world of provisional reality?

ACIM says there are no accidents. All of our dreams of perception are made into useful tools by the Holy Spirit to recall what we are. Chance plays no part in God's Plan. ACIM states that when the mad idea of the separation appeared, God already had insured the correction of this insane idea. The Atonement Process is the correction. Thus, the world we created to exclude God, now becomes the tool utilized by the Holy Spirit to bring about the remembrance of God. The world of provisional reality is a neutral learning device. Each "day" provides all the exact learning lessons that we need to rediscover what we are. In our illusion of time and space, we, the decision maker, are exactly where we need to be based on the past decisions that we have made. The concept of time was designed to allow us to choose again and thus reclaim our decision-making ability and rediscover our divine birthright. We do this through the Atonement Process. The sole responsibility of God's teacher is to accept the Atonement for himself or herself.

Reference: M-9.1. Changes are required in the <minds> of God's teachers. 2 This may or may not involve changes in the external situation. 3 Remember that no one is where he is by accident, and chance plays no part in God's plan.

What Am I

Reference: W-Part #2 # 14 <I am God's Son, complete and healed and whole, shining in the reflection of His Love. 2 In me is His creation sanctified and guaranteed eternal life. 3 In me is love perfected, fear impossible, and joy established without opposite. 4 I am the holy home of God Himself. 5 I am the Heaven where His Love resides. 6 I am His holy Sinlessness Itself, for in my purity abides His Own.>

How do I find the Peace of God?

We must drop all judgments and forgive our misperceptions in our playschool of provisional reality. This includes all our misperceptions about ourselves. We must accept the Atonement for ourselves. Forgiveness unlocks all the prison doors of our past judgments. Both our brother's and our own prison sentences of guilt are commuted. We are free to return to our Father's Home.

Reference: M-20-5.7 7 Forgive the world, and you will understand that everything that God created cannot have an end, and nothing He did not create is real. 8 In this one sentence is our course explained. 9 In this one sentence is our practicing given its one direction. 10 And in this one sentence is the Holy Spirit's whole curriculum specified exactly as it is.

What is the Peace of God?

That there is but one will. Our will is the shared Will of God. We are an extension of our Creator, perfect, whole and complete. There is only the truth of God. To know the truth is to accept our divine birthright. Choose to accept the Atonement for yourself and God's Peace is assured.

Reference: M-20-5.6 What is the peace of God? 2 No more than this: the simple understanding that His Will is wholly without opposite. 3 There is no thought that contradicts His Will, yet can be true. 4 The contrast between His Will and yours but seemed to be reality. 5 In truth there was no conflict, for His Will is yours. 6 Now is the mighty Will of God Himself His gift to you. 7 He does not seek to keep it for Himself. 8 Why would you seek to keep your tiny frail imaginings apart from Him? 9 The Will of God is One and all there is. 10 This is your heritage. 11 The universe beyond the sun and stars, and all the thoughts of which you can conceive, belong to you. 12 God's peace is the condition for His Will. 13 Attain His peace, and you remember Him.

How many teachers of God are needed to save the world?

One. This confirms the Oneness of the Sonship. It also confirms why we must go within ourselves to correct our own misperceptions. The answer must always be corrected at the source of the problem. Our greatest gift to our brothers is to heal ourselves. Thus the sole responsibility of the teacher is to accept the Atonement for himself or herself. By healing yourself, you extend the healing process to all.

Reference: M-12. 1. The answer to this question is—one. 2 One wholly perfect teacher, whose learning is complete, suffices. 3 This one, sanctified and redeemed, becomes the Self Who is the Son of God. 4 He who was always wholly spirit now no longer sees himself as a body, or even as in a body. 5 Therefore he is limitless. 6 And being limitless, his thoughts are joined with God's forever and ever. 7 His perception of himself is based upon God's Judgment, not his own. 8 Thus does he share God's Will, and bring His Thoughts to still deluded minds. 9 He is forever one, because he is as God created him. 10 He has accepted Christ, and he is saved.

How should a teacher of God spend his or her day?

We need to view this world of time as being the perfect learning device that will always bring us the exact lessons that we need to be studying. Give each day to God. ACIM states that we should attempt to begin and end each day by spending time with God. We can remove all of our fears by realizing that there is no substitute for God's Will.

See Manual, Section # 16.

Adopting a new paradigm for change:Choose again

If we are to change our viewpoint, we need to be willing to change our beliefs about God, our world, who we are and how they all interrelate. ACIM asks us not to change the world but rather, to change how we view our world. We need to change our beliefs and then all we perceive will align with our new way of thinking. Our mind is the power source for what we choose to call into our awareness.

Based on all of the concepts that we have discussed in these past twelve sessions, we can construct a new paradigm or model for who, what and how we relate to our world.

You are the creator of your world of perception. You are the decision-maker. You write the computer program that determines the beliefs that will govern how you will interact with life. It is the decision-maker who asks the question, “What am I?” It is this same decision-maker that then fills in the answer. The answer to the question, “What am I?” forms the basis for your beliefs that become the thought system which governs and limits what you believe you are and how you are capable of relating to your world. This belief system, we could call your ego. The ego, like a computer, can only run programs. A computer has no power to write the program. Yet, when we choose to forget that the decision-maker in our mind originally wrote the program, it will appear as if our mind is powerless to control the experience. These experiences that become our awareness in this lifetime are the natural effect of which computer program we choose to run.

Consciousness is like a computer screen. It is on this computer screen that consciousness appears to be independently displaying the images that have been originally conceived by the computer program and then run through the computer. The images appear real upon the screen and yet, they are actually created by our mind, which then projects these vibratory patterns upon the computer screen of consciousness. We fail to remember that our mind writes, holds, runs and projects the images upon the field of consciousness. These images seem to be caused by some mysterious external force. Yet, it is the mind that is projecting these images. It is this same mind that forgot it ran the program that also made the observation. Forgetting that our mind is the computer operator, it appears that the events being viewed on the screen of consciousness have no relationship with our mind. We now believe that we can only respond to what we observe on the screen of consciousness rather than simply choosing to run a different program. By deciding to forget that we control the computer input, our incorrect memory leads us into victim consciousness. Only when we remember that we are the decision-makers can we realize that we also have the power to choose differently.

In this world of perception, our field of consciousness is played out in time and space. Time and space become our playschool for the rediscovery of who we are. We are the otters of the universe that get to play and imagine anything we want in our quest to rediscover what we truly are. It is on the field of consciousness that we get to experiment with the question of, “What am I?” We are not a finite limited ego-body. Instead, we are unlimited eternal Spirit or Mind. Being invulnerable unlimited Spirit, we are perfectly safe in time and space to experience anything we want in total safety. We are the Children of a God of Unconditional Love. Like begets like. God created us in His own image and thus, we must be love. Yet, on the field of consciousness, God being unconditional love allows Her children the total freedom to imagine or create any experience that they would like. Any fantasy can be imagined in the game of “What am I?” If children believe that experimenting with the concept of opposites would be helpful in their learning process, God allows it. It is difficult to understand and appreciate the full qualities of light if you have no concept of darkness. Even the idea that a Child of God could be a finite, physical body, limited and separate from Its Source could be a helpful learning device. Another useful tool would be the idea that we could be something other than love.

God allows Her Children whatever experiences that they believe will aid them in their quest of rediscovering their full spiritual magnificence.

Time is the measure of change and only in time can we imagine that we are something that we are not. Time makes learning possible because in time, we can change old beliefs and learn new beliefs. In time and space, we can change our belief that we are a limited ego-body and replace it with the truth that we are God's beloved Children with whom She is well pleased. In the game of "What am I?" it is the power of our mind's imagination that works out the various "what if scenarios." This workout process ultimately involves moving from a fear based thought system into one founded upon love. By favorably resolving these "what if scenarios", we create new beliefs about ourselves. We rediscover that although we can pretend that we are something different and separate from our Creator, we remain as God created us, perfect, whole and complete. Only in time and space can we pretend we are something that we are not. Only in time and space can the Formless demonstrate being love in form. In changeless eternity, we remain part of the holographic Oneness that is the Mind of God. God is cause. We are Her Effect. We complete God and God completes us. Together we form two sides of one inseparable coin.

Redefining Yourself

Based on the above paradigm how could you change your core beliefs so that they would create and support a thought system that was love based instead of driven by fear?

Hint - All the core beliefs must be rooted in love, not fear. Remember Einstein's answer, we must see our world as a supportive place.

Now choose to redefine yourself basing it on a new love based thought system that you are developing. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and accept the fact that you are unlimited spirit. Recreate a new self-identity for yourself that is worthy of a Child of God.

Who am I? _____

What am I? _____

Where am I? _____

When am I? _____

How am I? _____

Why am I? _____

How do I reclaim my divine birthright?

Accept and know the truth about what you are. Give up your false belief in "littleness", the small "s" self. Accept the big "S" Self, which is our true reality. Because we insist on pretending that we are a little "s" self, we perpetuate our belief in limitation and separateness. We deny what we are. By accepting the Atonement for oneself, we accept all that is God. We become the big "S" Self, which is the only way God created us.

Reference: M-29.4. Here again is the paradox often referred to in the course. 2 To say, "Of myself I can do nothing" is to gain all power. 3 And yet it is but a seeming paradox. 4 As God created you, you <have> all power. 5 The image you made of yourself has none. 6 The Holy Spirit knows the truth about you. 7 The image you made does not. 8 Yet, despite its obvious and complete ignorance, this image assumes it knows all things because you have given that belief to it. 9 Such is your teaching, and the teaching of the world that was made to uphold it. 10 But the Teacher Who knows the truth has not forgotten it. 11 His decisions bring benefit to all, being wholly devoid of attack. 12 And therefore incapable of arousing guilt.

Reference: M-29.5. Who assumes a power that he does not possess is deceiving himself. 2 Yet to accept the power given him by God is but to acknowledge his Creator and accept His gifts. 3 And His gifts have no limit. 4 To ask the Holy Spirit to decide for you is simply to accept your true inheritance. 5 Does this mean that you cannot say anything without consulting Him? 6 No, indeed! 7 That would hardly be practical, and it is the practical with which this course is most concerned. 8 If you have made it a habit to ask for help when and where you can, you can be confident that wisdom will be given you when you need it. 9 Prepare for this each morning, remember God when you can throughout the day, ask the Holy Spirit's help when it is feasible to do so, and thank Him for His guidance at night. 10 And your confidence will be well founded indeed.

EXCHANGING TIME FOR ETERNITY

In Week #11 Handout # 1 we said:

Time is the belief that actions have ongoing consequences. Due to this belief that actions have ongoing consequences, you cannot allow yourself to be free in the moment. You are in a constant state of worry that prevents you from being in the <now>. Time is the belief that there is a gap between cause and effect. **Beliefs** are associated with the idea that the past impacts the present. **Fear** is associated with the idea that the present impacts the future.

Eternity is the realization that this moment and forever are exactly the same. You are always free and clear from the past. The past has no consequence on what you choose to be aware of in the present moment. Therefore, there is no past or guilt to bind you. There is no separation that has ever occurred and thus, there is nothing in the moment that can dictate your future. Each moment is independent by itself. You rest in the perfect safety of God's unconditional love. You are totally free.

The difference between eternity and time is not a place (Level #1 versus Level #2); it is a state of mind. It is merely a question of choice. Do you wish to be a "Knower of God" or a "Perceiver of Fear?" They are both God. For all there is, is God. God playing with Himself in the dance we call creation. Yet, in this play of creation, you are free to decide with whom and what you will play. You are free to choose what you will experience and what you will create. It is your free choice. Do you wish to play with love or fear? Stop being a seeker for you only seek out of fear. Instead, choose to be found. Be a Finder of Truth. Let God find you and you will be transformed into a "Knower of God." By accepting the Atonement for ourselves we allow God to play the role of God. We surrender to the truth and let God live us. We realize that Our Will and God's Will are the same for there is only the Oneness of the holographic Mind of God.

In order to exchange time for eternity we need to drop all of our egoic beliefs, all egoic judgments and all egoic plans for our salvation. We simply need to accept the Atonement for ourselves. We, our little “s” self, needs to do nothing. It was our little “s” self’s arrogance that created the “mess” we now perceive ourselves to be in. It will be the Holy Spirit that reawakens our Big “S” Self to reclaim our birthright. The truth is:

**There is no one to impress.
There is no one to control.
There is no one to change.
There is no one to fix.
There is no one.
There is just the One Self.
God is that One and you are That.**

We need to listen to the Voice for God and thus be vigilant only for God. ACIM’s final workbook Lessons 361 to 365 tell us how to achieve this success.

**This holy instant would I give to You.
Be You in charge. For I would follow You,
Certain that Your direction gives me peace.**

W-361-5.1. And if I need a word to help me, He will give it to me. 2 If I need a thought, that will He also give. 3 And if I need but stillness and a tranquil, open mind, these are the gifts I will receive of Him. 4 He is in charge by my request. 5 And He will hear and answer me, because He speaks for God my Father and His holy Son.

Note: The You and He are references to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the bridge that unites Cause and Effect as the Oneness of all that is.

In the **holy instant**, we drop all egoic judgments, beliefs and plans. In the holy instant, we forgive all. There is no fear of future consequences. In the holy instant, you have chosen to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We utilize the vision of Christ and have chosen for only love. ACIM’s holy instant would be likened to the <now>. However, in the holy instant, we have chosen to follow exclusively the thought system for love. The <now> and the holy instant should not be confused with what we call the “present.” What we call the “present” is our current perception filtered through past beliefs, judgments and future fears. In the present, one’s focus revolves around the past or the future. In the present, we are not in the moment.

When you exchange time for eternity, you live each moment without past restrictions and without fear of future repercussions. Your awareness is in the <now> because you realize that the <now> is the only place you want to be. Without fear and judgment you are free to be in the holy instant. Without past beliefs or future concerns you can be loving because that is what you realize will bring you the most joy. You have learned that being in fear is not as much fun. You freely chose to be only love. We get a glimpse of eternity when we move into the holy instant. We get a glimpse of eternity when we choose to become a “Knower of God” instead of a “Perceiver of Fear.”

We began the first lesson saying ACIM can be summed up as follows:

“Nothing real can be threatened.

Nothing unreal exists.

Herein lies the peace of God.”

Hopefully these lessons have assisted you in understanding what ACIM means by this.

Homework:

Complete exercise: Choose Again: Creating Your Own Epitaph

Complete ACIM Workbook Summary Lessons # 56-60. Then continue through to the end of the workbook lessons. Do no more than one a day. Enjoy them. Don't let yourself get stuck on any one lesson to long. The answer that you seek may be in the next lesson.

Ending prayer: Father, I believed I had lost my divine birthright. Now, I realize I was only “living” in my own self-created nightmare of illusion. I reawaken now to reclaim my divine birthright. Thank you for preserving what I feared I had lost. I forgive my brother and myself and remember all that you have given me. Your unconditional Love is all there is. I love myself unconditionally. Your Will is only that Your Child be happy. I now freely embrace Your Will as my own will. I come home to You, Father. Your prodigal son has return to his source. I join in the Oneness that is You. And so it is.

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Personal Note

Thank you for all your hard work and effort in the pursuit of this course. I trust these lessons have assisted you in understanding ACIM. I would encourage you to continue with your own personal study of the ACIM text materials. You may have found ACIM for Dummies a useful tool in your readings.

We are all teacher and we are all students. May I always see you as you truly are, perfect, whole and complete. It is in this realization that I will share your holiness. Thank you for sharing these moments in time with me in our playschool of provisional reality.

With peace and love, your follow student,

Tom Wakechild