

**CLASS: DECODING & LIVING A COURSE IN MIRACLES (TWELVE WEEKS)  
WEEK ONE - GENERAL HANDOUT # 1**

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**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.**

**History of ACIM:** Read from “A Course in Miracles’ Preface second edition first two sections called “How It Came” and “What It Is.” For a last section entitled “What It Says,” read the separately provided handout that is an expanded version of this section and which utilizes a format similar to “A Course in Miracle for Dummies.”

**Introduction of ACIM Text summarizes the course in 14 words:**

What it says in 14 words VS over 1200 pages of text

- 1) **Nothing real can be threatened.**
- 2) **Nothing unreal exists.**
- 3) **Herein lies the peace of God.**

**Question: To a “normal” person, does this make any sense? Can something that is real be threatened?**

**Example:** Crossing a busy highway blindfolded

**Example:** Doctor saying that you have 6 months to live

We must study what the terms mean to make sense out of the ACIM materials. Common words in ACIM have specific and often different definitions than our “normal” every day usage.

**Question: How would a “normal person” define; what is REAL?**

**Webster Dictionary: REAL = 1) actual, true, or objectively so; #2) Not merely seeming, pretended, imagined, or fictitious**

**For ACIM’s purpose, REAL = permanent, everlasting, eternal, changeless. Real is part of the Mind of God. The Mind of God is everything God created as He created it.**

**For all practical purpose in ACIM, UNREAL = anything that changes over time and space. Unreal is what would be perceived by the observer. Unreal is the world of individuated perception. Form, which is in a state of constant change, cannot be real.**

**Comparison between what is “Real” Normal everyday use VS. ACIM’s usage.**

Is this item real?

<b>Item</b>	<b>“normal person’s usage”</b>	<b>ACIM usage (changeless)</b>
CAT	_____	_____
PLANET EARTH	_____	_____
CONDITIONAL LOVE (I will love you if)	_____	_____
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE	_____	_____
HATE	_____	_____
SPIRIT, MIND, OR SOUL	_____	_____

**Question : What is knowledge?**

**Webster’s dictionary:** KNOWLEDGE = 1) awareness, understanding; 2)all that has been perceived, or grasped by the mind

**Question: What is the definition of perceived?**

**Webster’s dictionary:** PERCEIVE = 1) to grasp mentally, recognize, observe, take note of: 2) to become aware through sight, hearing, touch, taste or smell

**Example:** Photo

**Question: What is necessary for perception?**

**Example:** Viewing your hand      Useful hand VS. Aging hand

**Question: Is perception constant?**

**Example:** Christopher Columbus

**Question: Do perceptions, which are tied to beliefs, affect my actions?**

**Question: Does my perception change the truth?**

**Question: Do my perceptions and beliefs place self-imposed limits on what I believe is possible for me to achieve?**

**Question: Must perception be true? Or can it be either true or false?**

Perception requires an observer and something to observe. It implies both separation and individuality. Perception cannot be a Oneness. Perception always requires something for the perceiver to perceive. Knowledge can be a Oneness. Perception can change based on the individual’s shifting viewpoints, beliefs and experiences. Perception is unique to the observer and may be true or false. Based on the observer beliefs and perceptions, perception can and will place limits on what the observer believes is possible. Perceptions are not fixed and can be changed by the observer simply by changing their thinking, or their mind.

**Question: Must Knowledge be true?**

**Question: Must knowledge require more than one person or thing, or can knowledge just KNOW or just Be by itself?**

For ACIM purposes, knowledge must be true since knowledge's source is from the Mind of God. Knowledge is the remembrance of God. Knowledge is the awareness of what is real. The Knowledge of God is a Oneness. Knowledge does not require group consensus or majority rule. Knowledge just is. It is unaffected by an individual's beliefs. A person's denial of knowledge does not change the truth of what knowledge is. Knowledge is changeless. It is not conditional or sometimes true and sometimes false.

**Question: Do you and I live in the same world?**

**Example:** Your world vs. 10-year-old African born with AIDS? How about you and your next-door neighbor?

We each live in our own private world with various amounts of overlap. Our perceptions create our own individualized worlds. Each person has their own "provisional reality" in which they exist. This is how they perceive their world. This individualized "provisional reality" appears totally real to the perceiver and it binds or limits his actions and activities. Each person's provisional reality is not binding on another person, unless there is overlap between each person's individual provisional reality. This overlap would be a part of the collective consciousness that they both share. It is this shared collective consciousness that appears to give our physical world the stability that we seem to observe and share.

**Question: Regarding a dream. Is a dream real?**

**Example:** Dream of winning the lottery

**Question: Does the dream appear real to the dreamer?**

**Question: Is it real to the non-dreamer?**

**Question: What happens to the dream when the dreamer awakens?**

**Example:** Dream of murdering Wyatt Earp

**Question: If I dreamed I committed a crime, must I do the time? Will I be punished?**

ACIM points out that the bible states that Adam fell into a deep sleep, but it never states that Adam awoke from that sleep. ACIM states that we are still asleep and have, therefore, temporarily forgotten what we are. We have identified our real selves with this dream and, therefore, believe the dream to be real. Because of this, we have placed limitations on ourselves and do not fully utilize the powers that are within us.

**Question: Do you believe that you live up to your full potential?**

**Two different levels for ACIM study purposes**

**Level # 2** is a world based on an individual's unique perception. It is a dream world of provisional reality that appears real to the dreamer, but unknown to the non-dreamer. It rests on the belief in separation and individualization. Because of the belief in separateness, time and space appear relevant. The world of perception is temporary and is, therefore, not real. This world only appears to exist in the dreamer's mind. Our dream world of provisional reality is not part of the Mind of God, since God did not create it.

**Level # 1** is the Kingdom, which represents the Mind of God. This is eternal and unchanging and, therefore, this is real. This is God and everything that God created, as God created it. Level # 1's foundation is based on knowledge, which is truth. Since Level #1 is a complete sharing of a Oneness, time and space are meaningless on this Level.

**Both Modern Science and ACIM question the reality of this so-called physical world.**

**Quantum Physics and String Theory:** Our mind is more powerful than we would have imagined. Individuated consciousness appears to be the deciding factor in what we perceive out of an endless array of possibilities. String theorists have gone so far as to claim that entire galaxies exist only because there is an astronomer somewhere that wants to observe these galaxies. String theorists also have the mathematical equations to "prove" this claim. If an astronomer's desire to observe a galaxy can create whole galaxies, the idea that we create our own world of perception or provisional reality does not seem far-fetched. ACIM states that God didn't make our world of individuated perception, we did. ACIM can help us decide to wake up.

**Restatement of ACIM Preface Page X fourteen words:** Nothing real can be threatened because what is real is eternal and, therefore, changeless. You are real because you are part of the Mind of God. Nothing unreal exists and, therefore, your imaginary dream world cannot be part of the Mind of God. You have dreamed that you are separate from God and that you lack something. You only dreamed you "sinned" and, therefore, you have nothing to fear. There is no guilt and no sacrifice that is required from you for that is not God's Will. You are, and always will be God's beloved child; perfect, like your Father. For you are a Oneness, perfect, whole, and complete. You merely need to wake up to the truth of who you are and reclaim your divine birthright. Herein lies the Peace of God.

**Suggested Homework:**

Review and study the handout on the ACIM overview of the Preface and What It Says.  
H-O # 2

Review the grids on the comparison of terms.H-O #4 Review terms H-O # 3 & general handout.

Review notes and handout on Lesson 51- summary of lesson 1-5 Handout # 5

Do approximately one lesson a day. Five per week First week do Workbook Lessons 1-5

**Ending prayer:** T.31.5.17.7 - or, if time- **Mediation.**

"I do not know the thing I am, and therefore do not know what I am doing, where I am or how to look upon the world or on myself. Holy Spirit, help me reawaken to the truth of my divine birthright. For I am not a body, I am free, for I am still as God created me."