

TERMS FROM LESSON #1 - Decoding & Living ACIM –12 Wk Class Handout# 3

Knowledge is the memory of God. God's knowledge is based on truth. God's knowledge is changeless, certain, pure and wholly understandable. God's knowledge was extended, or given to all that God created. We, God's creations, are referred to in ACIM as the Son of God or the Sonship. God's Kingdom is God's creations. Knowledge was "lost" or more properly stated "forgotten" by the Sonship at the time of the separation. When God's Son reawakens from his dream of forgetfulness, the memory of God is returned and knowledge is restored. With the restoration of God's Son to knowledge, the Son's dreamed journey of separation from His Father ends. With the reawakening, there is no belief in sin, guilt, or fear. There are no walls or bodies, and the grim appeal of guilt and death that arose during the imagined separation are snuffed out forever. The memory of God has totally replaced the ego's thought system, which was based on perception. Both false and correct perception is gone. Only knowledge, which is the understanding of Oneness, remains.

Perception arose out of the "mad" idea that God's creation could be something other than what God created. Prior to the separation, there was only Oneness and, therefore, there was nothing to perceive since everything and the oneness were the same. With the birth of the idea of the separation, there arose the concept of the individual, or specialness. Now, rather than a Oneness, there was something "outside" to observe. This was the beginning of perception and the loss of knowledge. Perception is based on individualized observances that differ not only from observer to observer, but also vary based on time and space. Because of this, they are unstable and depend largely of the beliefs and experiences of the observer. Although appearing "real" to the observer, they have no basis in the Mind of God because they were not created by God. Because of this, they appear "real" only in the "provisional reality" of the separate observer.

Real is changeless and, therefore, eternal. Real is what is part of the Mind of God.

Unreal is anything that changes and, therefore, is not eternal. It is not part of the Mind of God.

Level # 1, as it is often referred to, is the Mind of God. It is also called the Kingdom, reality, or Heaven. Level #1 is all God created, as God created it. It is a Oneness that comprises everything. Level # 1 is based on the Knowledge of God. It is changeless and, therefore, eternal. Being eternal, everything is now and time and space are not relevant. It is a state of <Being>, which is total sharing. Because Level #1 is based on knowledge, it is truth. Truth can be denied, but an individual's belief in truth's validity will not change the truth. Level #1 is not part of the illusion of "provisional reality." On Level #1 we exist as "BEING" or as the "I AM State". It is the shared Oneness of the holographic Mind of God.

Level # 2 is an illusionary dream state was made by the Sonship's desire to experience individual autonomy or specialness. Because of the Sonship's mistaken belief that he could be separate from His Father, Level # 2 was designed as a place to keep God's love out and thus make the separation appear real. This could only be done in the imagination

of the mind of the dreamer. As such, it is based on perception, rather than the truth of knowledge. It is changeable and unstable, and shifts based on the underlying beliefs of the observer. Because this illusionary world was “made” under the influence of the ego’s thought system, it is not part of the Mind of God. Since God did not create anything that is not a shared Oneness with Himself, this perceived dream world does not exist in the Kingdom, or in reality. Because of this, for the purpose of ACIM, the dream world of changing form that we experience as planet earth, or time and space, is not real. Although provisional reality does not exist in the Mind of God, the beliefs of the observer, gives this dream state a reality of its own. To the dreamer, his world of perception, or his provisional reality, is very real. As long as the dreamer remains asleep, the dreamer will believe that his perceived dream “is” his reality. Part of the goal of ACIM is the undoing of this dream and the reawakening of God’s Son to Level #1 awareness. On Level #2 we have descended from an “I AM State” to a questioning, “WHAT AM I? state.” We have exchanged the certainty of knowledge for the uncertainty and doubt of a thinking mind. God does not think. God knows.

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