

**NOTES TO THE COMPARISON SPREADSHEET - WEEK # 2 - DECODING
ACIM
WEEK #2 HANDOUT # 3**

GOD NOTE # 1) The God of western traditional religions appear to be made in man's egoic image rather than God's image. This "god" is actually the concept of what "god" must be in the thought system of the ego. The only exception to the ego's version of god with that of western fundamental religions as shown on the spreadsheet, is that the ego may even question the idea that God is our creator or the first cause. Under the thought system of the ego, the ego would prefer that we believe that we were self-created. Since the idea that we gave birth to ourselves is difficult to accept, the ego will allow its "god" to be the first cause, provided that we accept the idea that we have somehow been able to defy the Will of God. The ego tells us that we have done the impossible and have usurped the power of God and, therefore, have not obeyed God's Will. Since we have disobeyed God's Will, we have sinned against God. Therefore, God is now seeking revenge against His sinful son. Because we are guilty of sin, we must be punished. Instead of the God of Love, the "god" of the ego is a god to be feared. This usurping of the Will of God is referred to in ACIM as the "authority problem".

GOD'S WILL NOTE # 2) Because we have pulled off the impossible and actually, successfully overthrown God's Will, the ego's version of God's Will is something that can be opposed. Now according to the ego, the Will of God demands revenge and seeks the punishment and death of his sinful creation. Because of this fearful idea, the ego tells us that we must hide from this revengeful God that the ego has dreamed up. We seek refuge from God in our private world of provisional reality. This private world was made to keep God out so that we could maintain our illusion of separateness.

FREE WILL NOTE # 3) The ego does not want us to realize that we have any will or decision-making ability. The ego wants us to believe that the ego has all the answers. Therefore, for our own good and protection, the ego tells us that we should blindly follow the thought system of the ego. The ego wants us to believe that we have no other viable choice. The goal of the ego is that we stay in victim consciousness so that we never recover our decision-making ability. The ego does not want us to choose again since we could choose to follow the Holy Spirit's thought system, which would result in the ultimate "death" of our ego. The ego wishes to make the illusion of our self-imposed dream world of limitation appear real so that it becomes our only "reality".

FREE WILL NOTE # 4) Our ego is our decision-maker's answer to the question "What Am I?" at any given moment in time. This answer is modified as our belief about what we are changes. The ego has no power of its own for our mind has made the ego. The only power that the ego has is the power that we wish to give to it. Everyone makes an ego for himself. The ego is the part of your split mind that wishes to be separate and, therefore, special. The goal of specialness is individuated egoic autonomy. Since there is only an indivisible Oneness of Everything, God could not give us individuated special love since there can be no separation. All are inseparable parts of the one holographic Mind of God. There is no separable part for God to give special love to. All remain equal as the One Self. God cannot give what He is not. The illusion of separation is our

attempt to achieve specialness and, therefore, a substitute for God's unconditional love. By denying the truth of what we are a Oneness of All That Is, we have moved from Level # 1 to Level # 2. On Level #1 we share the "I Am State" of knowledge. On Level #2, we claim we do not know what we are. Level # 2 is the "What Am I? State." We have freely chosen to exchange the certainty of knowledge for the uncertainty of thinking. The uncertainty of choice only appears real in Time. Uncertainty implies that there are different possibilities to choose. Thinking requires that we have a decision-maker that determines what we will believe is true or false within our own private world of individuated perception. Our decision-maker becomes the arbitrator of "truth" within the split mind's provisional reality. The decision-maker is the "YOU" that must decide which voice it will follow. The choice is only between the thought systems of the ego or the Holy Spirit's. Each thought system is mutually exclusive. We cannot follow both at the same time. It is the goal of ACIM to reawaken our decision-maker to the fact that it can and must choose again. The choice for the false is not a real option. Only by choosing for the Holy Spirit's thought system can we return to the truth of what we are.

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