

CLASS: TWELVE WEEK – DECODING AND LIVING ACIM

WEEK THREE - GENERAL HANDOUT

WEEK # 3 HANDOUT #1

Author & Facilitator: Tom Wakechild

Tom's website: acourseinmiraclesfordummies.com

Tom's email address: tom@acourseinmiraclesfordummies.com

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.

Review of terms: God, God's Will, Your Will and Free Will.

ACIM makes a distinction between creation and making. In general, God creates and we in our dream world of provisional reality make. What is the difference?

Creation is extension, which is based on sharing or inclusion. The Law of God is to give is to receive. Ideas never leave their source. They remain within the mind that thought of them even when the idea is shared.

Making is based on projection, which is based on exclusion. In projection, we attempt to give away what we don't want to something we believe is outside ourselves. Projection is based on the mistaken belief that an idea can be separated from the mind of the thinker and leave its source. Ideas never leave their source. They remain within the mind that thought them. We can pretend that the idea has left our mind and deny its existence, yet the idea always remains in the mind of its originator.

Question: Can we share something we do not have?

Test Example: Washer Test on sharing.

Was the choice of which washer to take a stressful one?

Was the trading or exchanging of a similar washer a stressful activity?

Question: Can similar objects be shared?

Test Example: Penny Test on sharing.

Was the choice of which penny to take more stressful than the washer choice?

Was trading or exchanging your penny more stressful than exchanging the washer?

How can we share one penny equally?

Question: Can dissimilar objects be shared?

Question: For the purposes of ACIM, how is the term “sharing” defined?

For ACIM purposes, sharing requires no sacrifice by the “giver”. The giver is not diminished in any way. If anything, the “giver” may appear to be actually strengthened by the act of giving. Because we are a Oneness, the Holy Spirit teaches that to give is to receive. Spirit is the thought of God, which God created as Himself. Spirit possesses creative power on its own. There is no “special” spirit. Spirit just is. Spirit is everything and spirit has everything. Because God created you, you are spirit and the Holy Spirit

knows there can be no lack in spirit, which you truly are. To the Holy Spirit, having and being are the same since spirit comes from the abundance of the Oneness. To give is to receive since there is only the One.

Note: The Holy Spirit knows the truth and is the remembrance of God within the split-minded that believe the separation is real.

The ego's thought system, however, is based on separation and limitation. Therefore, the ego teaches that to give is to lose and that the act of giving is an act, which requires sacrifice. The ego believes in a "zero-sum game". If someone wins the other side must lose. There is no possibility of a win-win situation. Because of the ego's belief in lack, the ego teaches that to have is to get. To the ego, it is impossible to just "BE" when you need to protect what you have. Having is a constant battle for the ego since the ego "lives" in constant fear of losing what it has. The ego does not share. The ego only barter.

To the ego, to give is to lose. The ego believes that giving requires sacrifice. The ego claims sacrifice to be a noble trait or an act of love. Actually, sacrifice is neither. Egoic sacrifice is a form of bartering. We are actually expecting something greater in return. We hope to give up something that we value less than what we hope to eventually receive in return. Sacrifice often involves delayed gratification or a gamble on our part. The return may not be guaranteed but it is expected to pay off big when we win. **Examples:** We kill the fatted calf with the hope that God will reward us with an excellent harvest. We give someone our money so that they will "love" us. Even when we "give" to a charity we anticipate that this will make us feel good about ourselves. We are always seeking a good trade or a big payoff.

ACIM points out that God never requires that we "sacrifice" anything since God's Love flows freely and cannot be earned or lost. When you are a Oneness of Everything, how could sacrifice be possible? The idea of sacrifice requires that there be some form of lack which is impossible in a Oneness of All That Is.

Reference: T-4.III.9

Question: In the above examples of "sharing", was the "giver" diminished?

Question: Can anyone give any example were the giver is not diminished by sharing?

Form or bodies cannot be shared. Any sharing of an object would result in diminishment to the giver or to the object itself. Form implies separation since a form must have points where it begins and ends. Since ideas never leave their source, thoughts can be shared. Because thoughts of forgiveness and love are thoughts of inclusion, these thoughts can be shared and are part of the Mind of God and are real. Forgiveness, as it is defined for ACIM's purposes, require no sacrifice or diminishment by the giver.

Note: ACIM's definition of forgiveness is radically different from common everyday usage. Forgiveness recognizes that what you thought your brother did to you has not occurred. It does not pardon sins and make them real. It is based on the idea that you create your own experiences and that there are no victims or victimizers. We have all freely chosen our parts.

We will cover forgiveness in greater detail later in the material. You may wish to read the Workbook Part II Section #1 **What is Forgiveness?** 2nd edition part 401

See handout - Reclaiming Your Divine Birthright

Question: How did you feel doing the exercise? Was it easy or were parts stressful for you?

Question: What is “creation” or as it is often referred to in ACIM “extension”?

God creates by extension. Extension is sharing. God extends and shares what He is to His creations. Since God is unconditional love, God extends unconditional love. Nothing is held back. God shares all because He is all. The Law of Extension is based on the knowledge that if you are a oneness, to give is to receive. By sharing this Oneness, God is not diminished in any way. By extending, God is “Being”. “Being” is what we share. You can only share what you are. No sacrifice is required since there is no diminishment, but rather by sharing your Being, your Being is reinforced or strengthened. Being is sharing and does not come from any sense of limitation. True sharing will leave the “person” with a sense of peace and well-being.

By extending everything, the Oneness of God remains a Oneness. There is no separation since everything remains uniform with no distinction. All parts are exactly like the whole. Because we currently exist in our world of provisional reality, we think dualistically. In our world of perception, a part is not equal to the whole. In the real world of knowledge, or Heaven, the part “is” the whole since there is only the Oneness. Separation does not exist in the Mind of God. In this way, extension is like a hologram. Shine a light beam through any part of the hologram and the whole will reappear. No matter how small you cut each part, you will see the whole. Spirit is the Thought of God, which God created like Himself. We are unlimited spirit for we are the thought of God. Mind is the activating agent of spirit. Spirit is the creative power. If we think of our Christ consciousness as spirit and Mind as a light beam, we have the analogy of the hologram. Shine the activating agent, which is Mind, through you, the Christ, and you obtain the whole Oneness. The Thought of God is life. This Thought of God has always remained within the Mind of Christ. **Reference: TM- Page 79 and WB Lesson #165.**

Creation is the act of extending God’s unconditional love outwardly. So God’s Sons can only create by extending unconditional love outwardly. In our dream world of provisional reality, forgiveness is the one act of being that comes closest to creation. Our true essence is love. On Level #2, forgiveness removes the barriers that we have placed between ourselves and love’s true flow. Creation is not part of the dream world of our provisional reality, but creation is reflected there by our use of forgiveness. Extension or creation is inclusive and, therefore, brings Oneness. In forgiveness, we unite with our brother. Projection, which is fear based, excludes and separates us from our brother.

You may wish to read the Workbook Part II Section #11 **What is Creation?** 2nd edition part 461

11. What Is Creation?

W-pII.11.1. Creation is the sum of all God's Thoughts, in number infinite, and everywhere without all limit. 2 Only love creates, and only like itself. 3 There was no time when all that it created was not there. 4 Nor will there be a time when anything that it created suffers any loss. 5 Forever and forever are God's Thoughts exactly as they were and as they are, unchanged through time and after time is done.

W-pII.11.3. Creation is the opposite of all illusions, for creation is the truth. 2 Creation is the holy Son of God, for in creation is His Will complete in every aspect, making every part container of the whole. 3 Its oneness is forever guaranteed inviolate; forever held within His holy Will, beyond all possibility of harm, of separation, imperfection and of any spot upon its sinlessness.

Question: According to ACIM, what is "making"?

Making, unlike creation, is a Level #2 function. Creation is a Level # 1 function. Making is not part of the Mind of God since making is based on something God is not, which is limitation. When we make, we believe that we are limited and also believe that we have limited creative power. Due to our mistaken belief that we lack unlimited creative power, we naturally extend that same belief in lack to our own "would be" creations. Making is not based on unconditional love, but rather fear, anger and guilt. To "make" is a decision to "create" the false. To make is to think, which means we do not know that we are unlimited spirit. God does not think. God only knows. Only truth can be shared since only truth is real. To make is an attempt to make what is false, real. To make is to experience the false, which is nothing. The false can only "exist" in our dream world of illusion (Level 2). This false world, however, appears very real to the dreamer and becomes the perceiver's reality. FEAR is "False Evidence Appearing Real". On Level 2, our function is forgiveness, which is the healing of the split-mind. In Heaven (Level 1), our function is creation. Forgiveness is a Level #2 function since there is nothing to forgive in heaven.

Question: How does ACIM define what "projection" is?

Projection is the attempt of the split-minded to remove their fear, guilt and anger out of their own split minds and place these same items outside themselves. The goal of projection is to transfer the projected items to something outside yourself, so that you can forget that their source originates and exists only within your own mind. Projection is based on the erroneous belief that ideas can leave their source. In projection, the split-mind attempts to place our mind's guilt or blame upon another so that we can claim we are innocent victims. Projection takes a oneness and splits that oneness into separate parts that appear autonomous. These fictitious parts are then transformed into victims and victimizers. Projection makes an imagined outside world, which becomes your provisional reality. This imagined outside world is made the scapegoat for your own fear and guilt. Your perceived world becomes a world of anger, fear and guilt. Since this perceived world is outside of you, your mind falls into an unconscious role of being a victim. You believe you are not the source and, therefore, are powerless to do anything about the world that you have made for yourself. You lose your ability to act as a decision maker or source. Projection is an attempt to get rid of what you don't want by sending (projecting) the thought away from you. Projection disempowers your mind by falsely confirming your erroneous beliefs in separation or lack. Through the use of projection, we get to claim that we are powerless to change our circumstances and are truly innocent victims. We claim that we are not responsible and it's not our fault. By arguing for our limitations, we get to keep them.

Question: What is the "source", or the cause, of projection?

Both extension (act of creation) and projection (act of making) arise first from thought. Thought is always the cause. Whatever is manifest is the result or effect of our thoughts.

Extension comes from a Oneness and from the belief in the abundance of everything. Its foundation is based on truth. Projection comes from separation and, therefore, from lack. Projection's foundation is based on the false. Projection is the ego's way of minimizing your power to create by encouraging the false belief that the Sonship could lack God's creative power. Your unlimited creative power cannot be lost, but it can be forgotten. As long as you fail to remember what you are, you will fail to claim your divine birthright as a child of God.

Thoughts are things. Do not underestimate their creative power. If you choose to believe your thoughts are powerless, that will become your provisional reality. As someone once said, "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." You can choose to claim that you are not responsible for your thoughts but you cannot escape the reality that your thoughts have manifesting power. Either you will create through love or you will make through fear. Love creates. Fear miscreates. **Reference: T.2.VI.9**

See spreadsheet handout: **COMPARISON BETWEEN CREATING VS. MAKING - How projection works**

Question: According to ACIM, can unequals share?

Since creation is sharing, sharing can only be done among equals. If we view our brothers as separate and unequal, we cannot share since sharing would require sacrifice on someone's part. Specialness is the belief in inequality and separate ego autonomy. The ego claims that we are limited and have limited or no creative power on our own. Separate ego autonomy births the belief in lack. Forgiveness is the tool in which we see our brother as what he truly is and, therefore, as an equal part of the Sonship. Only united can the Son of God create. We are not a limited ego-body. We are unlimited spirit, perfect, whole and complete. To claim that we are something other than what God created is the height of arrogance on our part. We are the Christ, the big "S" Self. Only the pride of our ego argues for our "littleness". Our little "s" self is our claim for specialness. It is our wish that we have our own autonomous existence separate from the Oneness of All That Is.

Form cannot be shared but thoughts of love and forgiveness can.

Question: Since projected thoughts originate from the mind of the sender, doesn't this make the receiver of the projected thought an "innocent victim", incapable of resisting the outside influence of the sender's thought?

In order for a projected thought to have an impact on a potential receiver, the potential receiver must have within himself or herself something that would attract that thought. Normally, this would mean that the receiver has that same element of the thought being projected within his or her own mind. There must be something within the potential receiver that desires or requires the offered experience, which the sender is proposing. The receiver must agree to participate in the role that has been offered. There are no victims since each party to the experience has voluntarily agreed to participate in acting out their prospective roles. If you lack the element within your own mind, there is no resistance to the projected thought and the thought projected from the sender will pass innocently through your mind. The potential receiver will see no learning value in the experience that the sender is sponsoring. This being the case, the thought will meet no resistance and, therefore, the projected thought would continue on its journey of seeking

another willing participant that will accept the part being offered by the sender. When a match has been found, the recipient will reflect back to the sender the predetermined role for the completion of the desired experience. There are no victims in the world of projection. Everything that happens to us has been brought upon ourselves and we are willing participants. We always experience exactly what is needed in our journey back to the remembrance of God. It is also possible that a prospective participant may choose to participate merely as an aid or teacher for his brother. In this case, the experience itself may be a lesson that the teacher has already mastered. There are no accidents. We always are exactly where we need to be. We may not understand how all events relate but they all are part of a perfect process to guarantee to bring us back home to Level 1.

Reference: T-5.III.3

The more we can accept the following statement, the closer we will be to reclaiming our divine birthright. **Nothing is the “source” of my present experience but me, and nothing has an effect upon me unless I chose to allow it to effect me.** This is a very empowering idea since it means you are never a victim. If there is something “wrong” in your provisional reality, you need only to look within your own mind and correct your mistaken beliefs about yourself. Thoughts never leave their source. Therefore, we must correct any errors in our thinking at the level of our own mind, which is where the error occurred.

Review & Discuss Lesson 6-10 & lesson 52

Beginning of the myth of separation: Forgetting to Laugh – Playschool VS. World of Conflict, Struggle and Pain

Suggested Homework: Review grid on create, make and how projection works

Review notes and handout on Lesson 53- Summary of Lesson 11-15

If possible, do approximately one lesson a day. / Five lessons per week. For the third week do Lessons # 11—15.

Each day complete exercise: Reclaiming Your Divine Birthright.

Ending prayer - or mediation

Father, I thought I wandered from Your Will, defied it, broke its laws, and interposed a second will more powerful than Yours. Yet, what I am in truth is but Your Will, extended and extending. This am I, and this will never change. As You are One, so am I one with You. I claim my divine birthright as your beloved Son. The peace and love of God is my essence. And so it is.

Copyright 2005 Thomas R. Wakechild