

CLASS: TWELVE WEEK – DECODING & LIVING ACIM

WEEK FOUR - GENERAL 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.

Name sharing.

Review of terms: CREATING, EXTENSION, MAKING AND PROJECTION

Review & discuss Lessons 11-15 & Summary Lesson # 53 SEE ADDITIONAL HANDOUT: Discussion for lessons 11-15. Also question for believability index.

Group meditation: Oneness and “remote” viewing of human body

Ending of the myth of separation

Question: What is the Holy Trinity for ACIM purposes?

For ACIM's purposes, God is spoken of as if there are three distinct parts of a Oneness. These three parts form the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is comprised of the Father, the Sonship and the Holy Spirit.

God is called the Father. For ACIM's purposes God is referred to as the Creator, Father or First Cause. The Father creates by sharing Himself with his creations, the Sonship. The Father creates by extending Himself to all He created and, thus, all of creation is empowered with all of the attributes of their Father. The Father being unconditional love, loves His Son (All that He created). God is Knowledge.

The Sonship is all that the Father created, as God created it. The Sonship is called the Son of God and is a Oneness in the Kingdom or Mind of God. There is only one united Sonship. Yet, in the world of provisional reality, the Sonship appears fragmented into countless, separate parts that are imagined to be each whole and autonomous from each other. It is the reawakening of the Sonship to its wholeness and unity that is the goal of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is a part of the Sonship and we, his brothers, all share equally in the Sonship. Jesus states that we should respect him like an elder brother but we should not be in awe of him. Awe is only appropriate for God, the Father. Like their Father, the united Sonship has the power to extend or create similar to God. The only difference between the Father, the Sonship, and the Sonship's creations is that the Father came first and is the First Cause. The splintering of the Sonship was the result of the Son's belief that he could be something other than as the Father created him. Since it is impossible for a oneness to be individualized into separate autonomous parts, this sense of separation appears to be real only in the dream world of provisional reality. Perception, rather than knowledge, rules the illusionary world of separateness. On level 1, the Sonship's purpose is to extend or create like His Father. On Level 2, the world of perception and thinking, the Sonship's function is forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit represents the bridge between the Father and the splintered and apparently divided Sonship. The Holy Spirit speaks as God's answer to the Sonship's "mad idea" that there could be something other than the Oneness of the Will of God. The Holy Spirit was placed in each part of the Sonship by the Father and is God's call for His Son to remember what he is and return the Son to his right mind. The Holy Spirit has the Knowledge of God and knows the truth about the real nature of the Sonship. The Holy Spirit, unlike the Father, has the ability to "see" the Son's perceived dream world of provisional reality. Thus, the Holy Spirit uniquely knows both the true reality of the Sonship and the Sonship's misperception about itself. It is this combined awareness and understanding of the Holy Spirit that allows the Holy Spirit to reinterpret what we perceive. When we ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance, we will be directed to choose again. Forgiveness is the main tool of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness will return our split mind to right-mindedness. The miracle changes our mind's guidance from the influence of the ego to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through the teaching of forgiveness the Holy Spirit fulfills Its function of reawaking the Son to what he truly is.

What is the separation?

The separation is the idea that a Oneness could be fragmented into parts. It is the belief that there could be something other than a oneness. More specifically, the separation is the belief that God's creations could be separated from their Source, which is the Mind of God. This error results in the erroneous belief that the Sonship can think, will, and create without Its Father. Separation is the belief that God's Will could be opposed and that there is another will other than God's Will. It is the denying of our birthright coupled with our belief that we can be something other than as God created us.

Because God's Will cannot be opposed, the idea that the separation is real is impossible. Anyone who believes that the impossible has occurred is insane. The eternal is changeless. Since creation is an extension of the Oneness of God, God's creation, the Sonship, shares in this same changelessness of the Oneness of All That Is. Because of its mistaken belief that the separation is real, the Sonship's mind thinks that duality is possible and that the Oneness has been shattered. This erroneous belief that the son is no longer One with the Father gave rise to the birth of perception, projection and individual ego autonomy. This separation never happened in the Mind of God yet, appears real in the mind of the dreamer who thought or perceived the dream of separation. The belief that the separation occurred gives rise ultimately to our dream world of provisional reality. Our thinking made this world of conflict and struggle. On Level 2, we believe opposites are possible. We think that there is both the true and the false and that both love and fear exist. Because we believe in the existence of opposites, we believe that we have a choice that we can make. In reality there is only truth. Truth is love. To choose fear, which is the decision for the false, is the choice for illusion and nothingness. The choice for nothingness is not a viable option. Nothingness is only a fantasy. The choice for the false is to pretend that we can arbitrarily decide what, when and where truth will be true. The choice for the false is our attempt to make the false real and the truth false. There is only truth. To believe that there is something other than truth is to make the illusion of nothingness appear real. Our belief in the false cannot make the false real. Our erroneous beliefs have no effect on truth or the Mind of God.

How did the separation affect the Sonship's perceived mind?

The belief in the separation is likened to the deep sleep that fell upon Adam. The Bible never states that Adam ever awoke. ACIM states that we are still asleep and that we believe that we actually reside and live in a dream world apart from God. This dream of separation resulted in the believed fragmentation of the united mind of the Sonship into innumerable separate pieces. These inseparable pieces of the Sonship are then given their own separate autonomous existences. This gave rise to the idea of individuality and specialness. The dream world that we perceive as our physical planet and as our bodies is a false witness to the idea that we could be separate from God. In this dream world, we believe that we can make the false real. We believe that truth is a choice. This idea that there could be something other than truth has led to the fragmentation of the Sonship into each of its apparent separate and individualized parts. The inseparable Oneness of All That Is has been imagined as being shattered into billions of unrelated separate and autonomous entities.

Your true reality was, is, and always will be as God created you – a Oneness, perfect, whole and complete. You are sinless and guiltless as your Father created you. You can choose to misperceive what you are, but you cannot change what God created. This misperception called the separation creates your dream world of provisional reality. This misperception must ultimately be dissolved since “ God’s Will is not mocked “and God wills you to be an extension of Himself. We must reawaken to the truth of our eternal Oneness as Love.

The denial of your birthright as a child of God, results in your belief that you are separate. This belief in separation splits the mind and gives rise to the illusionary world of the ego. In this dream world of the ego, you are a victim of limitation and fear. You are no longer perfect, whole and complete. The ego’s thought system is based on the idea that we are not perfect, not whole and not complete.

After the ‘dreamed separation from God‘ occurred, how were our individualized minds affected?

For ACIM purposes, after the separation, the mind is referred to as split-minded or insane. In the mind of the insane, we believe that truth is a choice that we can make. The insane claim they are the arbiters of truth. The insane believe that by choosing a false illusion, they can replace the truth and make their false illusions real. Wrong-mindedness is when the mind is under the guidance of the egoic thought system. Right-mindedness is when the mind is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit’s thought system. A key component of the mind is the decision maker. The “you” that ACIM refers to is this decision maker. It is the decision making part of the mind that the Holy Spirit strives to reawaken to the truth about what we truly are. These various components of the mind are for illustrative purposes. The goal of the ego’s thought system is for you to never remember that within your mind rests all the power of God. The ego does not want you to believe that you can choose again and decide in favor of the Holy Spirit. The ego wants you to remain in victim consciousness and never reclaim your minds’ ability to act as a

decision maker. If the ego can keep you in victim consciousness, you will never reawaken to the fact that you remain a Oneness with God. As long as the egoic thought system can keep you mindless, you will never exercise your right to choose again.

The term “mind” is used to represent the activating agent of spirit. Mind supplies the thought that is the intention which activates the creative energy of spirit.

NOTE: In a movie, “mind” would be likened to a movie projector’s light bulb. The term “Spirit” is the thought of God, which God created like himself. Spirit has its own creative power. Christ is the unified spirit of God’s one Son, the Sonship.

NOTE: In a movie, the film would be likened to your thoughts. Desire becomes intention which activates the creative power of spirit.

What does ACIM mean by the terms consciousness and level confusion?

With the separation, consciousness was born. **Consciousness is that split-off part of your mind with which you think, you think. Consciousness arose after the separation and the loss of knowledge.** Consciousness is where you choose to place your awareness. **Consciousness** is the receptive mechanism or device that is constantly receiving messages from either the thought system of the ego or the Holy Spirit.

Depending on which thought system it is listening to, consciousness’s level of awareness or viewpoint can change radically. Consciousness cannot move beyond the realm of perception and, therefore, cannot be based on knowledge. Knowledge is a Level 1 function whereas consciousness is a Level 2 function since it is based on perception.

With the separation and the birth of consciousness, the mind became a perceiver rather than a creator. This led to the ultimate splitting of the mind into the “higher mind”, which is under the jurisdiction of Holy Spirit, and the “lower mind”, which is in the domain of the ego. The Sonship has ceased being a creator and has lost its ability to know. This supposed separation, however, is only in the mind of the perceiver, not in the Mind of God. ACIM refers to the “higher mind” as the Big “S” Self or the Christ.

This idea of the split mind correlates with the definition of the ego. The **ego** is the thinking mind’s answer to the question “What am I?” The **ego** is defined as a wrong-minded attempt to perceive yourself as you wish to be, rather than what you are. You cannot change what you truly are since God has created you as perfect and changeless. You can, however, forget or misperceive, what you are. This misperception leads to levels created by the separation, which are irreconcilable to each other. Level confusion is the result. **Level confusion** is an attempt of the split minded to raise body thoughts to the level of Mind. **Level confusion** is a device, which is used by the thinking mind to bear false witness for the idea that you are indeed an ego-body and not a oneness of unlimited spirit. As an ego-body, you believe you are separate, fearful, and come from lack. **Level confusion** is the ego’s attempt to make the false appear real. Prior to the separation, there were no Levels since there was only Oneness of All That Is. Consciousness is on the level of perception. Since the ego is the result of a misperception, the ego is a miscreation. The result of a miscreation is not real in God’s mind and is only perceived as real in the mind of the misperceiver. This initial miscreation of the split mind is the start of individual provisional reality. This is a world that is true only in the mind of the one perceiving or dreaming it. Based on the fact that God did not create the ego, the ego does not exist. Only in your dream world of provisional reality does the ego appear to exist. The ego was “made” by you, not created by God.

These “two minds”, which are right and wrong- mindedness, are really not separate. They are “states” of your one mind. Each state of mind is under the influence or follows the thought system of either the ego or the Holy Spirit. States of mind or your viewpoint, can change based on the thought system you follow. As your state of mind changes, so does the “world” you “see” change. **(Reference T-3.IV.2).**

Note: We will cover the two thought systems in more detail later.

Story: The river and the lifesaver

Question: Where do two parallel lines meet?

Level 1, the Kingdom, which is real, and Level 2, provisional reality, which is unreal, are like two parallel lines. They never meet. This is why in order to correct the mistake of the perceived separation, the error must be corrected at the source of the problem. Provisional reality is the effect, not the cause. The Holy Spirit’s thought system uses the tool of forgiveness to help us correct the problem at the proper level. The problem resides in our mind, not in an illusionary physical body. The Holy Spirit and the tool of forgiveness form the bridge that leads us back from Level 2, perception, to Level 1, knowledge. ACIM’s term, “MIRACLE”, refers to the “battle” over which thought system we will choose to follow.

Question: What is a miracle?

Webster’s miracle = event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and hence thought to be due to supernatural causes, especially to an act of God. 2) A remarkable event or thing: marvel

Question: What is a miracle for ACIM purposes?

For ACIM purpose’s a “MIRACLE” = a shift in perception. It is a change in the perceiver’s viewpoint. It allows the perceiver to view something or some person in a different light. It is the result of a shift in the mind’s viewpoint from the guidance of the ego, to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The miracle is a correction of error in thinking. It does not really change truth but instead reminds the mind that what it perceives or sees is false. A miracle undoes error but does not attempt to go beyond the realm of perception. It is important to note that for ACIM purposes, the miracle does not necessarily result in a physical change in the item viewed, the other person, thing, or event. This may or may not happen. Rather the change occurs in how the perceiver reacts to the item being viewed. As such, only the perceiver may be aware of the change. To the perceiver, the miracle will produce a calming effect that results in the restoration of peace of mind. This shift in our own personal provisional reality may appear to go unnoticed within the observable provisional reality of the other person or items being viewed. Normally, this shift in perception is the result of the Holy Spirit’s reinterpretation of the perceived “event”. This shift is an offering of forgiveness rather than of attack within the mind of the perceiver to the “event “ being viewed. Thus, the miracle shifts perception from attack to forgiveness.

Suggested Homework:

Review all past handouts including this week's handout.

Review notes and handout on Lesson 54- Summary of Lesson 16-20

Do approximately one lesson a day. / Five lessons per week. For the third week do Lessons # 16—20.

Ending prayer - or mediation

I ask that I may see clearly. True vision is the means, which God has chosen to show me my mistakes that I may look beyond them. True vision is given to me to find a new perception through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit's lessons, I surpass perception and return to truth. Today I choose to see a world forgiven, in which everyone shows me the face of Christ. Everyone teaches me that what I look upon belongs to me. My brother and I are a Oneness with God. I claim my divine birthright as God's Son. And so it is.

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