

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



Lesson 358 **No call to God can be unheard nor left** **Unanswered. And of this I can be sure---** **His answer is the one I really want.**

Sarah's Commentary:

The Course talks about healing the mind. It talks about healing our misguided thoughts, so we can know our innocence, but here, as in Lesson 345, we are told that miracles can show up in form. In Lesson 345, he says, **"The miracles I give are given back in just the form I need to help me with the problems I perceive."** (W.345.1.4) In this Lesson, we are told, **"Your Voice, my Father, then is mine as well, and all I want is what You offer me, in just the form You choose that it be mine."** (W.358.1.4)

The important part of this line for me is that we don't know what is in our own best interests or what will bring us peace and happiness. Therefore, we are invited to allow Him to choose. When we make our own choices based on the ego's directions, we will be hurt. We can't know our own best interests if we don't know who we are.

In Chapter 30 IV, Jesus says that what we think we want in this illusory world, including events, circumstances, people, relationships, jobs, toys, and other material things, may serve us for a while, but inevitably, they disappoint us. The ego set it up this way to keep us in its game. It has us continually looking for what would satisfy us in the illusion, yet nothing ever will. These "toys" may **"dance a little while, according to the rules we set for them,"** (T.30.IV.4.4) (ACIM OE T.30.V.52) but at some point, we get disillusioned with them. We attack them for not meeting our expectations, and then we say that life sucks because it hasn't turned out our way.

That is when we become motivated to allow the Holy Spirit to choose for us. Only He knows what we truly want. We may think we really want what God wants for us, but so often, we end up taking our own initiative instead. Giving up control to Him is what we are learning to do. In Chapter 30, **"The Rules for Decision,"** we are asked to commit to making no decisions by ourselves. **"Today I will make no decisions by myself."** (T.30.I.2.2) (ACIM OE T.30.II.4) We are called to take the time in the morning, before we get into the events of the day, and set this intention for ourselves. Humility helps me to acknowledge that the "little self" that I think I am doesn't have a clue.

It is important to look at what humility really is. To do that, we should perhaps look at what it is not. It is not about diminishing ourselves or accepting unworthiness as a value. Instead, it is to **"accept of Him that which we are, and humbly recognize the Son of God."** (W.152.10.2) In other words, we accept our greatness, not as a self-concept, but as what we are. Thus, our ideas about ourselves must be seen as false, and we ask in humility to be shown the truth of our Self. We acknowledge **"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."** (T.31.V.17.7) (ACIM OE T.31.V.60)

Humility accepts our grandeur and not the grandiosity of the ego. It is our holiness that we acknowledge. Our beloved teacher is gently showing us the way to remember who we really are. The Christ Self is our reality. Our self-image may seem humble, but it is actually arrogant, masking as humility. Anything of our own making is a false image, no matter what it may look like. In the Manual for Teachers, Jesus talks of our **"guilty embarrassment coming from false humility."** (M.7.5.6) This comes from the self-image, which has been socialized by the norms of the world. Now we are called to accept the truth of who we are beyond the image. When we recognize that **"His answer is the one I really want,"** (W.358) we become willing to release our own answers and humbly depend on His guidance for everything.

In Chapter 9, Sections I and II, Jesus discusses the reason prayer is not answered in the way we might expect. In one instance, we may not get an answer because we are asking for nothing; and in another instance, it is because we are asking for something that might hurt us or bring on more fear. Since the Course is about escape from fear, the Holy Spirit will not give us anything that will increase our fear or threaten our thought system. Further, there are many answers he says that we have received, but we have not yet heard. While all prayers are answered, they are not all accepted due to our own resistance.

That is why the Holy Spirit must look out for our interests. **"You speak for God, and so You speak for me. And what You give me comes from God Himself."** (W.358.1.2-3) Thus, God will only give us what is good for us, since we really have no idea of our own needs and wants. How can we, since we don't know what we are? When we listen to the ego, we reach out for pleasure, but we always receive pain.

What are we looking for when we ask for idols? Don't we all want happiness, peace, and joy? We think the things we are asking for will make us happy, yet they won't. Until we get that, we will keep seeking and will never find. It is interesting to watch the mind at this time of year when we see the commercial aspects of Christmas and perhaps express our desires for certain things. We may also hold expectations of how our family gatherings should be. This can create tension and bring about disappointments. What a wonderful opportunity to watch what is in the mind and place our unhealed perspectives on the inner altar for forgiveness.

We ask for His help and guidance in all things, and we trust that our deep call of the heart is heard and answered when we ask for healing. Why can we be so sure about this? We can be sure because the answer is already in our own mind, and we can choose it at any time we turn to the Voice that speaks for God and not the voice of the ego. The ego has written the script for our special relationships, and now we make the choice to forgive these relationships. Our function is to remember Jesus' teaching in every moment and apply what we have learned.

I recently read Michael Singer's book, *The Surrender Experiment*, where he shares his extraordinary journey of his deep spiritual awakening when he was in his twenties and then decided to no longer let his personal fears dictate his life, but rather to surrender to everything. In order not to stop the flow of his life, he decided to say "yes" to everything. In the process, he could see how much the ego resisted what was being presented to him. He looked past the resistance and chose to live in constant acceptance, letting go of personal preferences. This book shifted my mind and the message fits in very well with this lesson.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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