



## LESSON 73 I will there be light.

### Sarah's Commentary:

This Lesson contrasts our ego wishes, which have no power, with **"The will you share with God [that] has all the power of creation in it."** (W.73.1.3) Jesus affirms that our will is the same as God's Will because He is our Creator. It is the only one true will. Everything else is just idle wishes, which make for nothing real. **"Yet God wills. He does not wish. Your will is as powerful as His because it is His."** (T.7.X.4.6-8) (ACIM OE T.7.XI.102) Again, Jesus says, **"You must ask what God's Will is in everything, because it is yours."** (T.11.I.8.5) (ACIM OE T.10.II.12)

It seems as if our ego wishes oppose God's Will. We have all kinds of thoughts and ideas about what we want and need, and while they are called idle wishes, they nevertheless have made this whole world of illusion! So, it is apparent that in the illusion, our idle wishes do have power. While they lack the power of creation, they do have power to miscreate. But **"They make nothing that is real."** (W.73.1.7) While idle wishes have made the whole world, it is not real, no matter how solid it seems to be. It only seems solid because of the beliefs we hold about it and about ourselves as bodies living in the world. It is because our holy minds have given power to the ego that it has any power at all. As we withdraw belief from the ego and the world and instead invest it in remembering our Oneness with God, we get in touch with our real power and our true will.

**"Idle wishes and grievances are partners or co-makers in picturing the world you see. The wishes of the ego gave rise to it, and the ego's need for grievances, which are necessary to maintain it, peoples it with figures that seem to attack you and call for 'righteous' judgment."** (W.73.2.1-2) It is a world of special relationships where we traffic in grievances. Grievances maintain the separation. We see our brothers and ourselves, not as we are as the One Son, united in creation, but instead as characters in the dream, trading grievances back and forth with each other. Of course, we each see ourselves as the hero of our dream—the main character in the dream with others playing supporting roles as we have determined them to be.

Grievances tend to escalate as we battle each other, giving as little as possible to get as much as possible for ourselves. We always defend and protect ourselves against attack that seems to be prevalent in our lives. Guilt needs a target. That is why we have specific people in our play on whom to project guilt. Some of those people in our dream we seem to love and others we think we hate or want to dismiss, but either way, we do the dance of passing guilt, attack, and defense back and forth with each other. That is why Jesus says that we all traffic in guilt and are very good at it, but the cost to us is that when we do this we **"do not know your brothers or your Self."** (W.73.2.5) That is a high cost we seem willing to pay in order to keep our grievances and maintain the separation!

The ego needs grievances, **"which are necessary to maintain it** [the ego and the world]." (W.73.2.2) Grievances are the oxygen of the ego, in that it needs them to continue to exist. It is where our addiction to conflict and drama comes from. It is how we keep others separate from us and make them the sinners deserving punishment, so we can imagine ourselves as free of guilt. They are expected to serve our specialness, and when they don't meet our needs, we judge them and consider it **"righteous"** to do so. (W.73.2.2)

Everyone in our dream, including ourselves, moves about attacking each other and retaliating at the bequest of the ego, always trying to get something from the other. If it were not for these characters in the dream, or middlemen as they are called here, we would meet as holy Sons of God in the light that unites us all as one Self. Yet as long as we hold grievances against our brothers, we cannot know them. We do not see their reality as the Christ. Instead of seeing their innocence, we use them to bargain so we can get what we want from them, hold them to our requirements, and demand reciprocity in turn; and with each exchange, the separation is reinforced. That is why special relationships all deteriorate over time as the mountain of grievances grows. I think we have all experienced this in relationships that have broken down over time with a mountain of grievances, lots of hurt feelings and angry bitter words that can't be retrieved in the dream state. But there is an option. When we commit to healing and wholeness, our relationships become holy, and rather than deteriorating, they become better and better with forgiveness and time. Our relationships now become assignments for only one purpose which is to heal the mind.

Today, we are asked to try to reach a place that is not Heaven, but the light of Heaven shines within it. It is the real world. It is **"the world that is in accordance with your will. The light is in it because it does not oppose the Will of God."** (W.73.4.1-2) This is a world that reflects the reality of Heaven. It is now an outward picture of our inward condition which is one of healed perception. When we find the light within, we see a world of light without.

How do we get there? There is only one answer which is to forgive. Forgiveness is about accepting the Atonement (the correction/healing) for ourselves by choosing to dismiss the ego, refusing to listen to it and instead, aligning with our true will, which is God's Will. **"Forgiveness lifts the darkness, reasserts your will, and lets you look upon a world of light."** (W.73.5.4) The light is not in the world but in our minds. What keeps the ego going is simply our willingness to listen to it. When we turn to the ego, we don't see each other. We don't see our brothers' reality and don't know our own. What we see is an image of what we have made of them. **"We have repeatedly emphasized that the barrier of grievances is easily passed, and cannot stand between you and your salvation."** (W.73.5.5) It is just a thought away! Do I really want the hell I put myself in when I hold grievances? How insane is it to keep the anger and suffer when I can choose to change my mind and bring my insane wishes to the Holy Spirit?

How this dynamic has been set up by the ego has been hidden from awareness, which is why Jesus brings it all to light so we can choose against it as we become aware of the ego's clever plan. We can think of our mind as a projector of pure white light but when we load the projector with the ego tape, we see a darkened world of guilt, fear, anger, attack; but if we change the tape and choose the one the Holy Spirit offers, it is just pure light. We change what is in the projector by releasing grievances through forgiveness. We turn to the Holy Spirit and ask for His interpretation in place of our own. We take the hand of Jesus as he invites us to do and bring to awareness our judgments and beliefs so they can be released. This requires giving up our justifications for our brothers' guilt. We love to tell stories of how others have wronged us. We love to gather allies who support these stories as we continue to build our case.

As we release the hold the ego seems to have on us, we recognize that however powerful ego wishes seem to be and however powerful our desire for revenge and attack may be, a shift is available through acceptance of the miracle. It is available in each moment. Before we stepped on this path, we were not aware this choice was available because we were not aware of the right mind. Now we realize we have a choice and we don't have to listen to the ego. We become very motivated to make this choice when we see how much peace and happiness is available through forgiveness and how much suffering we experience when we attack.

I once worked for a boss who was, in my view, difficult and challenging. One day at a staff meeting, a lot of conflict arose. Instead of adding my opinion to the debate, I turned to the Holy Spirit and asked how I should see my boss and the whole situation. I was told just to remember who he is and bless him. So I sat through the whole meeting just asking to see the Christ in him and blessing him. To my surprise, after the meeting he asked me if we could go for lunch. In all the years I worked with him this had never happened. I was astounded at the power of my thoughts. Being quite new to the Course this has stayed with me because it was a powerful moment. As Jesus says, every step we take in healing is mightily reinforced. All it takes is our willingness.

**"Your picture of the world can only mirror what is within."** (W.73.5.1) As we shift from grievances, which show us a **"darkened world,"** (W.73.5.3) to forgiveness, the darkness is lifted. (W.73.5.4) We can see this in our everyday experience. Whether we talk about a movie, a book, a person, or a situation, we all have a different "take" on it, and we argue about the correctness of our perception. Yet all anyone is seeing is what is in their own minds. We are seeing our own inner world projected on the screen. While the movie seems to be playing outside in the world it is only our own inner condition. As we change our inner world, the outer world of perception shifts, and what is reflected is what the Course calls the real world, seen from the perspective of a healed mind. Forgiveness replaces the world we don't want with the one we do want where our will is joined with God's.

Jesus puts a very blunt question to us when he says, **"Do you really want to be in hell? Do you really want to weep and suffer and die?"** (W.73.5.7-8) Who would ever choose that? Yet we do choose it. Now with every temptation to choose hell, we can change our minds. When we listen to the ego, we continue to hold out hope that something in the world will still bring happiness and give us what we think we want. We continue to think we can exert our idle wishes and find the answers for our lives. We continue to think attack and grievances will get us something of value. Jesus urges us to **"Forget the ego's arguments which seek to prove all this is really Heaven."** (W.73.6.1) As long as we seek for things in the world that we think will make us happy and follow the ego's plan for salvation, we will suffer. We all want to be happy, but we can't find that happiness when we follow the wrong teacher. Oh yes, we will experience moments of happiness, but they never last. In fact, they are always tinged with the fear. As has been said many times—the ego sends us on missions to **"seek but do not find."** (T.16.V.6.5) (ACIM OE T.16.VI.48)

The question is, do we want to oppose God's Will, which brings happiness? **"It is not the purpose of an alien power, thrust upon you unwillingly."** (W.73.9.2) It requires that we see how wrong we have been in thinking we would want something different from what God Wills for us. When we see how unhappy this has made us, our willingness to join with the Holy Spirit is reinforced, as we tell ourselves **"with gentle firmness and quiet certainty: I will there be light. Let me behold the light that reflects God's Will and mine."** (W.73.10.1-3) I am determined to release my grievances so I can behold the light in my brother and embrace him in the love we share as One Son. I do so by letting grievances go **"instead of cherishing them and hiding them in darkness."** (W.73.11.7) We must take responsibility for our self-hatred

and look at it with honesty and courage, rather than defending and pretending we are innocent victims of attack.

This Lesson helps me to see that when I choose the ego, I am choosing against my own happiness. My healing depends on being willing to see the Christ in everyone. By getting in touch with the light, we can bring it to everyone we meet or think about today. When you are tempted to hold a grievance of any kind today, whether in the form of worry, anger, frustration, impatience, or anything that crosses your mind and takes away your peace, just apply today's idea. Bring all your misperceptions, which kill your joy and peace, to the memory of God's Love within so you can know your Self as the light that you are.

Love and blessings, Sarah  
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