



## LESSON 77 I am entitled to miracles.

### Sarah's Commentary:

We are entitled to miracles because we are the Christ Self, created by God and entitled to all that is His. When we fully accept this as the truth, miracles extend through us. When we know the love that we are, everything that comes through us comes from that love. It can only be known when our wrong-minded perceptions are brought to the light. We must first be very willing to release the guilt in the mind and let go of fear, grievances, and attack thoughts, which block the truth of what we are. The source of all our suffering in this world is our choice for the ego and with it the body. It has resulted in a dream of separation and suffering. We were created as the unlimited Christ Self. This Self is still our only reality, yet we have fallen asleep. While the right mind is still connected to the truth, we can only access it when the mind is healed of false perceptions. The Holy Spirit is the bridge to truth and a reflection of God's Love in this dream. We are entitled to that love completely and fully because we are God's Son and remain as He created us.

Suffering is our experience in this dream when we identify with the ego. Yes, we have bouts of happiness and pleasure, but they don't last. Suffering comes with the separation because when we accepted the tiny mad idea into the mind we no longer experienced ourselves as complete, whole and in need of nothing. The miracle corrects our wrong-minded perception and replaces it with true perception where we see everything with vision. The miracle shows us that our experience here is all a dream that we are dreaming. When our perception is shifted from the wrong mind to the right mind through the experience of miracle we recognize that another way is open to us.

Because we chose the ego and the world of fear in the first place, we can now choose against it. When we bring our false perceptions to the truth, their undoing brings a shift in how we see. This shift is the miracle that comes when we choose with the Holy Spirit rather than with the ego. When we turn to the Holy Spirit for His interpretation of the people, situations, or events in our lives He shows us that we can choose peace in every situation. When we choose not to listen to the ego, it loses its relevance in our lives. When we make a choice to see with the eyes of Christ, we are choosing Jesus as our guide and teacher. When we listen to the voice of the ego, we actively block the truth of what we are and look out on a darkened world. **"Grievances darken your mind, and you look out on a darkened world. Forgiveness lifts the darkness, reasserts your will, and lets you look upon a world of light."** (W.73.5.3-4)

The ego can be very stubborn in its insistence that it knows something. We may feel that letting thoughts of attack and grief go is very difficult but Jesus assures us that grievances are easily passed and have no power to stand between us and the miracle. Why is he so certain? He is certain because, he says, **"The reason is very simple. Do you really want to be in hell? Do you really want to weep and suffer and die?"** (W.73.5.6-8) He already knows that what we want is happiness which is never available with the ego and when we see that we will choose the Holy

Spirit as our Teacher. Do we wish to continue to hold onto our perceptions and suffer, or do we want to forgive these misperceptions and turn to the Holy Spirit for the truth so we can be happy? One would think that this is not a difficult choice to make when we see the options. So why do we insist on holding onto thoughts that hurt us? **"You are entitled to miracles because of what you are. You will receive miracles because of what God is."** (W.77.1.1-2) He withholds nothing from us.

There is only one thing required of us—a willingness to accept the means given by the Holy Spirit for our salvation and the salvation of the world. **"You have asked for the salvation of the world, and for your own. You have requested that you be given the means by which this is accomplished. You cannot fail to be assured in this. You are but asking that the Will of God be done."** (W.77.5.2-5) The means we are given is forgiveness. **"Forgiveness recognizes what your brother did to you has not occurred. It does not pardon sins and make them real. It sees there was no sin."** (W.P.II.1) It is all a dream we are dreaming which is why it has no reality.

Often when we pray for an answer for our suffering and come to Jesus or the Holy Spirit with a problem we have already decided what our problem is. By doing so we have limited the scope of the answer by the nature of our question. This limits the miracle when we think we know the problem and therefore think we know what question to ask. **"In doing this, you do not really ask for anything."** (W.77.6.1) The reason is that specific questions we ask around specific problems are always related to what we have defined as our needs. The truth is that we don't need anything except healing and to know who we are that we already have everything. Every problem we think we have has already been answered.

The truth is that we only have one problem which is the belief in separation. **"But the only meaningful prayer is for forgiveness, because those who have been forgiven have everything."** (T.3.V.6.3) (ACIM OE T.3.VII.56) The miracle is always there, shining its magnificent light behind every seeming problem. Our part is to ask for help to release the misperceptions we have about the nature of the problem. The problems we have always come from our interpretations of the situation and never from the situation itself. When our misperceptions are given over for healing, space is made for the miracle. Now in our gratitude our prayer becomes one of deep appreciation for what we have received. Accepting the miracle that is always available to us is the answer to every problem we seem to have.

Through healing and forgiveness we come to a state of miracle mindedness where we live in a state where its effects become the norm in our lives moment to moment, instead of the exception. We no longer look at miracles in our lives as amazing or exceptional but as natural so that when they don't happen we realize that something has gone wrong.

To come to this state purification is necessary. It is to let go of the false and develop trust in the Holy Spirit and His guidance in each moment and to claim the right that is our inheritance. **"He [Holy Spirit] will never ask what you have done to make you worthy of the gift of God. Ask it not therefore of yourself. Instead, accept His answer, for He knows that you are worthy of everything God wills for you. Do not try to escape the gift of God He so freely and so gladly offers you. He offers you but what God gave Him for you. You need not decide whether or not you are deserving of it. God knows you are."** (T.14.III.11.4-10) (ACIM OE T.13.VIII.75) When we hold onto unworthiness and the belief that we are bad, we are actually trying to escape the gifts God offers us so freely and gladly. We

falsely believe we have to make ourselves worthy of His gifts. Yet when we ask that God's Will be done, we can be certain it is done. He assures us that we cannot fail because the gift is already given. We are already worthy of His gifts. We can only fail if we do not avail ourselves of the means given us so we can claim the gift.

To forgive is to bring the blocks in the mind to the truth. We must expose the ego and all its false thoughts and beliefs to the light. The Holy Spirit will do all the heavy lifting when we place our blocks before Him. Our job is not to try to clean up our own act. It is not to try to fix what we think is wrong with us. Our job is only to take responsibility for our errors, bring them to the inner altar, and leave the healing to the Holy Spirit. The ego will never undo itself. It is threatened by what we do to expose it for what it is. Until we no longer see value in our will and in our way, in our uniqueness and in our specialness, we will still look to the ego for our salvation. This is what keeps the miracle away.

**"Your claim to miracles does not lie in your illusions about yourself. It does not depend on any magical powers you have ascribed to yourself, nor on any of the rituals you have devised."** (W.77.2.1-2) Magic is always about something external, whereas the miracle is internal. Magical thinking is to believe that our spiritual practices will protect us and make us happy. It is the belief that what we think we need in the world to make us happy will magically appear. It is looking for protection in the things of this world. This is an error protected by the ego as it ensures our bodily identification. The fact is that only the Love of God will protect us in all circumstances. It requires healing of the guilt in our minds. When it is brought to the truth and is healed by the miracle, **"You have been promised the full release from the world you made."** (W.77.3.2)

The world we made is a world separate from God. The miracle shows us that this never happened. There is no world. In asking for the miracle, **"We ask no more than what belongs to us in truth,"** (W.77.3.4) which is the awareness of the Kingdom of God within where truth resides. (W.77.3.3) With that awareness comes a recognition of the Christ Self we are. It is to know our identity as we were created which is always available to us when we choose the Holy Spirit as a reflection of the love we are. When we settle for littleness, lack, or a limited self, we shut out the glorious truth of our Being. The miracle helps to restore to us our inheritance that could never be lost except from our awareness.

With separation comes guilt and fear with all its manifestations of anxiety, worry, upset, jealousy, specialness, needs, expectations, frustrations, comparisons, and a never-ending list of problems. The only solution that will ever work is if we go back to the source of every problem, which is always the guilt in the mind. When we take our mistaken perceptions to the Holy Spirit, He offers us His Correction, which is the miracle. When we remember to ask sincerely for help to see anyone or anything differently, the miracle is received. This shift happens when we turn to the Teacher within instead of relying on our limited resources for the answer. When we try to solve our own problems in form, we are turning to magic. Magic will alleviate symptoms and perhaps address a problem temporarily, but as long as guilt is still in the mind, the problem will persist. **"The whole distortion that made magic rests on the belief that there is a creative ability in**

**matter which the mind cannot control."** (T.2.IV.2.8) (ACIM OE T.2.III.54) Magic is related to **"the powers the ego ascribes to itself."** (T.4.II.9.1) (ACIM OE T.4.III.35) It is using outside agents in the belief that these will solve whatever problem we think we have.

When healing is experienced, love and joy are extended through us which is not the same as being loving. The problem with trying to be loving is that the separated mind has no idea of how this is accomplished. The closest reflection of love in this world is in forgiveness. To try to be loving, as we understand it, is to expect reciprocity. If we don't get the love in return, we withdraw our love. This is special love, which is a substitute the ego has made for the love we are. When grievances, attacks, and judgments are brought to the truth, space is made for love to shine through and we become a demonstration of that love which includes everyone. **"Remind yourself also that miracles are never taken from one and given to another, and that in asking for your rights, you are upholding the rights of everyone."** (W.77.4.3) Our love is always conditional coming from an unhealed mind. The guilt in our minds stands in the way of extending miracles and the love that they contain. The answer is always the same, which is to bring the guilt to the inner altar where it is healed.

When we don't experience miracles, it is because we stubbornly hold onto our false perceptions. Grievances hold back the miracle. We stubbornly hold onto our judgments seeing ourselves as innocent at the expense of our brothers. We either hold judgments and grievances, or we are in a state of miracle-mindedness. These are mutually exclusive states. Miracles do not always have observable effects. What is important is that perception is shifted in our minds from guilt to innocence. It is a mental shift, which frees our minds from grievances. We are not the source of the miracle. The Holy Spirit is. We can't generate a miracle through our own resources. We must turn to the Holy Spirit. He is the Source of all miracles.

This is a very practical course, but to be experienced this way, we must apply these teachings to our lives on a daily basis so the Course comes alive in our experience. Otherwise, while we can be blown away by the beauty of the words and the brilliance of the concepts, they don't help to shift our minds. Without application, the words and concepts will only have value for the intellect. It takes great willingness to accept complete responsibility for the difficult and challenging situations in our lives and to see every situation as an opportunity for healing.

With the miracle comes a shift from seeing our interests as separate from others to realizing our interests are the same as others. That kind of shift is the focus of the whole Course. It is this shift in our minds from which miracles emanate. It is not about changing our behavior. It is about changing our minds, and behavior follows naturally. It takes practice to choose the thought system of the Holy Spirit more consistently than the thought system of the ego. As we do the practice, we become more in tune with the thought system of the Holy Spirit, and this is the source of miracles. Then the world becomes a witness to our state of mind. When we witness miracles, we witness our own healed perspective.

When we ask for our rights, we are also upholding the rights of everyone because **"Miracles do not obey the laws of this world."** (W.77.4.4) The laws of this world rest on differences, while miracles recognize our brothers as the Self we all share. Jesus says that each decision we make is one between a grievance and a miracle. It is our choice. The only meaningful thing we can do in this lifetime is to watch our minds for grievances and be willing to let them go so miracles can abound. Today we are asked to claim the miracles that belong to us and to refuse to be content with anything less. We are simply requesting what belongs to us. Refuse to be satisfied with anything less than what you are entitled to. **"I will not trade miracles for grievances. I want what belongs to me. God has established miracles as my right."**

Love and blessings, Sarah  
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