

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



LESSON 91 Miracles are seen in light.

Sarah's Commentary:

We are finished with the Review and now have a long Lesson in front of us. **"Miracles are seen in light."** (W.91) It follows the Review of Lesson 89, where we are reminded that grievances hide miracles. **"The miracle is always there. Its presence is not caused by your vision; its absence is not the result of your failure to see. It is only your awareness of miracles that is affected."** (W.91.1.4-6)

Just because we don't see them does not mean they are not there. The reason they are always there is because the truth is already in our minds. The Holy Spirit is in our minds, but we block awareness of His presence with our ego thought system of guilt, fear, attack, fantasies and grievances.

Miracles can only be seen in light. **"You will see them in the light; you will not see them in the dark."** (W.91.1.7) When we continue to turn to the ego for answers, we experience darkness. While this darkness, which we think of as our reality, persists, it makes the idea of light meaningless to us. Only the darkness or fear which is the state of the separated self seems meaningful and real to us. This is because we put our faith in what the body's eyes show us and the interpretation we give to everything we see.

What is this darkness? Darkness consists of judgments, belief that what we see with our eyes is true, reality of bodies, grievances, perceptions, differences, and indeed it is our conditioned, deceived mind. The conditioning comes from everything we have learned in the past and everything we have taught ourselves, which Jesus describes as a **"giant learning feat,"** (T.31.I.2.7) (ACIM OE T.31.I.2) and **"is indeed incredible."** (T.31.I.2.7) (ACIM OE T.31.I.2) It is so incredible, Jesus tells us, that the entire world was made by the power of this ability.

Now we need help in undoing what we have made. It is not something we can do on our own because the ego will never undo itself. Something outside of our conditioned mind, outside of the matrix is where the power is. We have over-learned what the ego has taught us as true, and we have faith in what we see with our eyes. We believe our eyes show us what is real. **"You do not doubt the images they show you are reality."** (W.91.3.4) This is where we put our faith. **"Your faith lies in the darkness, not the light."** (W.91.3.5) We look out on the devastation with our eyes and believe what we see is real, but what our eyes show us is not true. It is all part of the darkness. Physical sight, according to the Course, is not real seeing. In order to really see, we need vision.

That is why it seems to take a lot of time and a lot of work to unlearn everything we think we know yet he assures us that this is what time is for and is a good use of time. Our identification with the body, the personality, and our self-concept is very much held up by our investment in

it. The world was made as evidence that what we see and experience is the truth. What we are now learning is a new way of seeing. This is not about what our eyes show us, but about our state of mind and our perspectives. In essence, we ultimately come to see as the Holy Spirit "sees"—through the "eyes" of forgiveness. When we see through His perception, we see our dark thoughts, but we see them without judgment. The one seeing is presence. Now, instead of seeing a dark world, we see the real world that shines with innocence and beauty. We see beyond appearances.

This is a challenging process for us because we are so very invested in our individuality and our special, unique self, seemingly trapped in these bodies. Therefore, it seems that what we are told by Jesus is fiction and what we experience in our lives is fact. What we believe about ourselves and the world seems to be more solid and more true than what he is showing us. That is why, until we are willing to admit we are wrong about how we perceive, we won't take this first step on the road to truth. We actually see and experience what is not there. It is all illusory, yet behind the veil is the truth. Just because we don't accept this does not mean it is not there. We block it by searching for answers where they are not. When we are willing to admit that our way has not brought happiness, we become willing to look for a better way. It requires that we begin to withdraw our faith from our investment in the world and the body and surrender our way of seeing.

The miracle is simply the correction for our current thinking. It shifts our perception from how we see now. The Holy Spirit is that Correction. When we see that our way is wrong and our happiness cannot be found in the world, we become willing to ask for the Correction. That is a great beginning.

If we are doing this Course, we have a degree of willingness to change. Jesus says that it is impossible for us to reverse our faith from the darkness to the light by ourselves. However, we are assured that our small willingness and our little efforts have strong support! **"Your efforts, however little they may be, have strong support. Did you but realize how great this strength, your doubts would vanish."** (W.91.4.1-2) At the core of change is simply our desire for it.

We are not doing this work by ourselves. We walk with mighty companions who reinforce every step we take on this journey. If you realized just how great the strength is that is available to you, **"your doubts would vanish."** (W.91.4.2)

Only when we feel this strength will we no longer have doubt, and this is what **"makes all miracles within your easy reach."** (W.91.4.4) The only thing that hides miracles from us is our **"sense of weakness."** (W.91.4.5) We feel weak, helpless, and limited when we think our reality is limited by our bodily identity and all the vulnerability that entails. We feel weak when we rely on our limited understanding, looking for answers where they don't exist.

Bodies do have limitations. When we invest belief in the reality of the body, we feel weak and vulnerable. We won't let go of this investment in the body unless we know there is something better to take its place. We will continue to believe in the reality of the body unless we have an experience of something else. This "something else" is more than a feeling. It is an experience of the miracle, a holy instant, awareness of the Self we are. It is where the entire Course is leading. When we have the experience of letting go of the belief in the body and the world, even for a brief moment, there is a shift in the mind. This is the miracle. The miracle changes how we see things. It changes our perception. It changes our investment in the body where we see it as an end in everything we do to keep it comfortable and secure. Jesus shows us that the body

is simply a tool, a communication device, and need not be the focus of all our attention. Its well-being is assured when the mind is healed.

It does not happen all at once, or it would be too terrifying for us. The truth of our reality is concealed by judgments, grievances, and attacks. The miracle undoes all of this when we turn them over to the Holy Spirit. It takes great willingness to allow our mistaken thoughts to be corrected. Our stubborn resistance hurts us. It is actually harder to stay in resistance than it is to surrender to the truth. When you are tempted to judge a brother today, turn to Jesus and ask him to help you see your brother as he does. When I hold feelings of unworthiness, shame, specialness, anxiety, or guilt the Holy Spirit assures me that I am innocent, worthy beyond measure, and perfect in my holiness. As we allow all of our mistaken thoughts to be corrected, we experience more and more peace and joy.

Jesus demonstrated the truth of our being in his resurrection. **"The resurrection demonstrated that NOTHING can destroy truth. Good can withstand ANY form of evil, because light abolishes ALL forms of darkness. The Atonement [the resurrection] is thus the perfect lesson. It is the final demonstration that all of the other Lessons which I taught are true."** (UrText.T.3.C.11.) According to this, the resurrection was a demonstration that nothing can destroy three things: truth, goodness, and light. Jesus is clearly the symbol of this truth.

In our lives, the meaning of the resurrection can be captured in the following lines, which are worth spending some time on:

No matter how much people attack me, they can't destroy the truth in me.

No matter how much they misperceive me, they can have no influence at all on what I am.

No matter how much malice assaults me, the life in me can't be changed in any way.

The good in me can withstand any form of evil.

The light in me abolishes all forms of darkness.

No matter what the world does to me, my life remains unlimited, for I am God's Son.
[Anonymous]

That is what Jesus demonstrated through his resurrection. It was not God's demonstration that Jesus was divine but Jesus' demonstration that we are all divine and all deathless (in the fullest sense of the word). **"The resurrection demonstrated that nothing can destroy truth."** (T.3.I.7.6) (ACIM OE T.3.III.18) **"Teach not that I died in vain. Teach rather that I did not die by demonstrating that I live in you."** (T.11.VI.7.3-4) (ACIM OE T.10.VII.65)

It is not helpful simply to deny the body and hope that the idea sinks in. Jesus asks us to see that we have been wrong about ourselves. It is because we have been listening to the wrong teacher. Jesus talks to the part of the mind that is always making the choice for the ego or for the Holy Spirit. He is not asking us to give up the body, only to think more deeply about our reality. **"If you are not a body, what are you?"** (W.91.7.1) When we ask ourselves this question, Jesus recognizes the answer terrifies us, and so it must be replaced with something else. **"You need to feel something to put your faith in, as you lift it from the body. You need a real experience of something else, something more solid and more sure; more worthy of your faith and really there."** (W.91.7.3-4)

He gently leads us from the belief in the reality of this world and our individual self to the recognition there is something beyond the ego mind. **"I am not weak, but strong. I am not helpless, but all powerful. I am not limited, but unlimited. I am not doubtful,**

but certain. I am not an illusion, but a reality. I cannot see in darkness, but in light." (W.91.8.4-9) In order to experience the truth of these statements, we need to recognize how we are blocking the truth, be willing to look at our interfering thoughts and beliefs, and bring them to the light. It is the beginning of recognizing that maybe we have been wrong about who we think we are.

Not to know who we are is terrifying to us. We are told, **"There is no statement that the world is more afraid to hear than this: 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.17.6-7) (ACIM OE T.31.V.59,60)

To put our beliefs about ourselves to question is the beginning of the undoing of the thought system of the ego. We begin by looking at our mistaken thoughts, our feelings and our attributes and allow them to be corrected. (W.91.8.2) We bring our illusions of ourselves to the truth; yet to do so requires a great deal of willingness. Looking at our belief in our inadequacies, unworthiness, self-hatred, jealousies, and neediness, all requires great honesty and courage because the ego warns us not to go there. By looking at these thoughts without judgment and merely taking an objective inventory of what comes up, healing can happen.

"Relax for the rest of the practice period, confident that your efforts, however meager, are fully supported by the strength of God and all His Thoughts." (W.91.10.1) Remember, it is the application of these thoughts in our day-to-day lives, that brings about vision. With each opportunity to choose again, the Holy Spirit substitutes the happy dream where thoughts of peace replace thoughts of judgment and attack.

It is very easy to join with weakness when we listen to the ego. We can get discouraged on this journey. We may want to give it up, yet invariably the perfect Lesson appears just when we need to hear the truth. Today, I experienced doubt thoughts, feelings of helplessness, limitation, and frustration, and noticed how the ego tries to hang onto these emotional tantrums. I am reminded today that the part of the mind that remembers the truth is the strength in me and is always there. Some days the challenges that show up in my day make the application of the Lessons even more compelling. While I am determined to continue this healing journey, I recognize there is resistance. I try not to fight myself, because when I do, the ego gets more resistant. I am not the ego. I am the presence behind the ego. The presence I am is already perfect.

I am willing to concede that I don't understand anything today but I know that these mistaken thoughts can be corrected. **"At least I can decide I do not like what I feel now."** (T.30.I.8.2) (ACIM OE T.30.II.15,16) Jesus reminds me that there is another way to look at every situation, and I can choose again for what I really want. I know that I choose what I want to experience so if I have made this choice then when I am ready, I can choose again. However, delay is painful and need not be.

While my efforts may seem meager today, they are fully supported by the strength of God. He reminds me to, **"Remember that all sense of weakness is associated with the belief you are a body, a belief that is mistaken and deserves no faith."** (W.91.9.3) This is where all my sense of unworthiness and suffering comes from. When I begin to remove my faith from the body, **"if only for a moment,"** (W.91.9.4) a shift is made to that which is **"more worthy in you as we go along."** (W.91.9.5) We make this effort today to bring all that is false to the truth so the miracle can shine forth. We meet each temptation to hold onto false concepts with the words of this Lesson. The truth is true and nothing else is true.

Be confident today "**that your efforts, however meager, are fully supported by the strength of God and all His Thoughts. It is from Them that your strength will come.**" (W.91.10.1-2)

Love and blessings, Sarah
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