

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



Lesson 327 I need but call and You will answer me.

Sarah's Commentary:

Jesus says, "**We have attacked God's plan for salvation without waiting to hear what it is.**" (W.72.10.10) Well, we might ask: How did we do that? Jesus says, "**We have shouted our grievances so loudly that we have not listened to His Voice.**" (W.72.10.11) He says, "**We have used our grievances to close our eyes and stop our ears.**" (W.72.10.12) While we have done all this, Jesus assures us that despite the fact we still do listen to the ego and express grievances, nevertheless we have heard and answered the Call of the Holy Spirit. The fact that we can decide to release our grievances anytime we choose gives the mind amazing power of decision. Yet we may question, why am I holding onto any grievance in this moment? What do I get to be right about?

It is encouraging to read, "**I am not asked to take salvation on the basis of an unsupported faith.**" (W.327.1.1) That idea serves us well. He invites us to test out what he teaches. We learn the truth of this teaching through our own experience, and with each experience, our trust and faith grow. That is so reassuring and, in my experience, so very true. The more I get out of the way and listen to His answers, without setting limitations on what I need or what I think my problem is, the more I find that His answers show me that my trust in Him is warranted. Yes, doubts come up when new situations arise, and the temptation is to go back to the ego for the answers, but as trust grows so does my confidence in Him.

Some time ago, I was facing a situation of having to find my way through a maze of long-term care arrangements for my mother in a system that is highly bureaucratic and has a limited supply of open beds. I faced the possibility of her having to go into a difficult transitional situation until a bed could be found. The hospital wanted her out as soon as possible. Fear came up in my mind on how I could possibly address this situation. When this happens, there is always an inclination to rush about, finding answers. Yet I find, when I refuse to allow ego thoughts to take over my mind, with the recognition that no answers are possible in a state of conflict, I take time to allow the fear thoughts to be seen and ask for help to maintain a state of peace. With that comes a knowing and trust that all is well. In the end, everything turned out miraculously. I had put my trust in the Holy Spirit and felt His support. I actively refused to listen to the ego that kept nattering in the background. Everything truly does work together for good and if it is not yet good, it is not the end as we learn in the marvelous movie, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

Purification of ego thoughts is necessary for miracles to be experienced. "**Miracles arise from a miraculous state of mind, or a state of miracle-readiness.**" (T.1.I.43.1) (ACIM OE T.1.I.71) It is not that we don't act in circumstances that arise, but we stay attentive to Him to

guide our actions. Then He can send us on our busy doings from a quiet state of mind. **"This quiet center, in which you do nothing, will remain with you, giving you rest in the midst of every busy doing on which you are sent."** (T.18.VII.8.3) (ACIM OE T.18.VIII.70) **"And now in all your doings be you blessed."** (Manual for Teachers.29.8.1) It is about choosing which guide we follow in each moment---the ego or the Holy Spirit.

This path is not one of blind faith where we are asked to give our loyalty and our allegiance blindly to God, hoping that one day He will reward us for our faith. He invites us to test Him, and when we do, we experience the benefits of turning to Him and our peace is increased. Our relationships are transformed through forgiveness. We have met challenges with more grace and trust, and we have had examples of guidance in situations where we have stepped back and let Him lead the way with happy results. Our minds have shifted where we now have more ease, openness, and trust. Challenges don't go away, but we are ready for them, feeling stronger and more confident when we see the evidence of how much we are supported. I have increasingly become a happier learner. I'm more motivated with each passing year to do the work of watching my mind and of taking responsibility for my thoughts.

We have all experienced miracles, but we don't always recognize them. The ego may deny our experience, question it, dismiss it, or judge it as just a coincidence or a fluke. Part of the process, in my opinion, is simply to take notice. Stay aware of the events and symbols around you and be grateful for them all. This Lesson invites us not to judge the answers we receive when we ask. In other words, we need to trust that the answer we get is exactly what we need. It may not always be apparent that this is so, especially when it comes in a form other than what we expected, or it comes later where patience is called for. The answer is given immediately, but we are not always ready to receive it. The point is, we are asked to look for evidence of His Love and His Word (His Promise) constantly, and we can trust Him to always have an answer for us. He wants us to come to trust Him so we will not delay our return to our Self. He waits with open arms for us to turn toward Him. **"This is the faith that will endure, and take me farther and still farther on the road that leads to Him."** (W.327.1.4) We will not fear our return when we know His Love awaits us.

"Let me but learn from my experience that this is true, and faith in Him must surely come to me." (W.327.1.3) As we grow in faith and trust, we rely more and more on the Holy Spirit until we step entirely out of the conflict in the mind from listening to two different teachers that take diametrically opposed directions. There is no meeting place between the Holy Spirit and the ego. **"And thus are two sons made, and both appear to walk the earth without a meeting place and no encounter. One do you perceive outside yourself, your own beloved son. The others rests within, his Father's Son, within your brother as he is in you."** (T.24.VII.11.1-3) (ACIM OE T.24.VIII.72)

We must be willing to let go of all littleness. We garner trust when we see our brothers on the path, glowing with the light of His Love. It is truly beautiful to witness changes in those around us who reflect His gifts as they are given and received. Their gifts and their progress are mine as well because we are One. Sharing our experiences is how we encourage each other in testing out the truth of God's promises. It is not about trying to have belief, but about actually experiencing the results of our trust in the Divine Spirit within each of us.

When I started with the Course, my obstacle to embracing it, immediately, was the Christian language. I was motivated to give it a try because of the way it came into my life through a friend for whom I had great respect. Dr. Willis Harmon, then the CEO of the Stanford Research Institute, brought the Course into my life. It was my trust in his recommendation that got me started on this learning path in my early days of study. At that time, I had no belief and faith in God and a lot of resistance to any religious teaching. However, by applying the Lessons to my life, I started to see amazing changes despite limited understanding since I had not yet read the Text. I started to trust more and more that something was working in my mind that was not of me, nor of my limited thinking, and through this, my faith grew.

Interestingly enough, Jesus says, **"Yet back of all our doubts, past all our fears, there still is certainty."** (W.P.II.Q11.What is Creation?4.3) **"For love remains with all its Thoughts, its sureness being theirs. God's memory is in our holy minds, which know their oneness and their unity with their Creator."** (W.P.II.Q11.4.4-5) While our physical experience in the body seems so real, and our doubts and fears seem to be what life is about, behind all of this, and deep within the mind, certainty is there for us all. We recognize more and more how lost and split off we have felt and how much we have not understood that there is another way of seeing.

"Father, I thank You that Your promises will never fail in my experience, if I but test them out. Let me attempt therefore to try them, and to judge them not. Your Word is one with You. You give the means whereby conviction comes, and surety of Your abiding Love is gained at last." (W.327.2.1-4) Amen.

We are encouraged by Jesus to keep testing out His promises, so we can know we have not been abandoned and are truly loved. He is there to give us the help we need, so we are encouraged to ask in everything and follow His guidance. When we ask for things of the ego—idols, we ask for nothing but pain. Ask instead for what is in line with God's Will for us—healing, happiness, guidance, release from guilt, and to see every situation through His vision. It is all about the prayer of the heart to open more fully to our divine, holy minds. It is to ask with desire and wait for the answer with confidence. It may not come in the form we expect nor in the timeline we set, but it will come.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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