

A SERIES OF  
**DISCOVERY**  
with "A COURSE IN MIRACLES"



- Cycles of Dedication
- Prayer
- Goalsetting
- The Goals of Specialness
- The Message of the Crucifixion
- The Healed Relationship

DISCUSSIONS WITH  
**PAUL J. STEINBERG**

VOLUME I

A Series of  
**DISCOVERY**  
with  
"A Course in Miracles"

Discussions with  
Paul J. Steinberg,  
Personal Transformation Counselor

## IN APPRECIATION

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*With deep feelings of love and gratitude for their friendship since the beginning of A Course in Miracles, for their encouragement when it was needed, and their support at all times,*

*Helen Schucman*

*William Thetford*

*Judith Skutch*

*Robert Skutch*

*Kenneth Wapnick*

*Gerald Jampolsky*

*Saul Steinberg, my dear cousin*

## DEDICATION

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*Dedicated to the many known and unknown who, like ourselves from the beginning, literally took the message of A Course in Miracles\* into their hands and brought it to the world. They came from all walks of life, varied backgrounds and disciplines; but each resonated to the sound of truth in the Course.*

- TO THOSE OF US WHO WORKED FROM COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL TYPEWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT...
- TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED...
- TO THOSE YET TO COME...
- BLESS YOU AND YOUR PIONEERING SPIRIT.

*A Special Dedication to ROBERTA L. STEINBERG. The unsung and often unseen heroine without whose love, support and energy the work of Miracle Experiences, Inc. could not have been done.*

*\*"A Course in Miracles", "the Course", "Miracles", refer to the three book set "A Course in Miracles" published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, P.O. Box 635, Tiburon, Ca. 94920*



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"The DISCOVERY of A Course In Miracles is  
the DISCOVERY of Yourself!"

## *INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCOVERY SERIES*

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This Series is taken from numerous workshops presented internationally by Paul J. Steinberg and Bette Martin for Miracle students over many years. These volumes represent the accumulated experiences of presenting thousands of hours of workshops on A Course in Miracles. During these years almost every possible question has been asked about the Course and its application. We have learned much and want to share our understanding with our brothers and sisters.

This Series will bring home to you, in everyday "American" English, the complex and sometimes confusing concepts so eloquently and poetically expressed in the Course. The language has been kept simple and clear by design. This is not an attempt to rewrite the Course, but a sincere effort to help you understand it.

Some of the volumes in this series will bear the name of Paul J. Steinberg, and some Bette Martin. This is our joint effort, in a loving endeavor of sharing with our growing Miracle family.

# **CYCLES OF DEDICATION**

We used to call people 'committed' to A Course in Miracles but realized this didn't sound quite right and changed it to "dedicated". By saying, "Be a committed miracle student", we sounded like they needed to be put away. Joking aside, however, we did find that people went through distinct cycles in their growing dedication to the study of A Course in Miracles. You may find yourself in the middle of one of these cycles.

### **Honeymoon Period**

The first cycle is a marvelous Honeymoon Period. Everybody seems to get the new job, the new wife or husband, the new mistress or lover, the money. Superficially everything seems fine and great. Do not be misled; things are not always as they appear to be.

### **Proselytizing Period**

Then students seem to enter into a Proselytizing Period when we want everybody to know about A Course in Miracles. We walk around with the books under our arm; drive with them in the car and when stopped at a red light read our Text, tying up traffic for miles. Should anybody come into the house we say, "Here, have A Course in Miracles!" We demand our husbands and wives come to the meeting and when they refuse we say, "You don't love me any more. How could you not want to be involved with such a beautiful and noble thing?!" We find that this is a very lonely stage because we chase people from



us. When they see us coming down the road they cross to the other side of the street to avoid talking to the miracle "nut!"

### **Rejection Period**

We then enter the Rejection Period. Ego begins to interfere with your progress and the games are over! This is when you throw the books across the room and say, "Who needs this?" You try to stuff them down the toilet bowl. (I know. I ruined two sets of books. The print doesn't go away, the pages just get wrinkles.) We go through this Rejection Period saying, "I didn't ask for this!" The ego is working hard to stop your growth. The ego realizes that you are reaching levels of dedication it didn't intend for you to reach. The Rejection Period can be serious. But we find we never lose a miracle student. Sometimes they need to go off for their symbolic forty days in the ego wilderness that can sometimes last for months or years. They return and say, "Now I am ready to continue," heralding the beginning of the Dedication Period. These discussions have evolved because people have returned after the Rejection Period and have said to us, "Now I am ready to go on, and I want to understand what this Course has to say."

### **Dedication Period**

A Course in Miracles is here to heal the Sonship. It is here to heal the sense of separation from God that we all experience. The ego will, therefore, let you play around with the Course during the Honeymoon Period, and won't fight too hard during the Pro-

selytizing Period, especially if it helps to break down relationships. But when you start the Dedication Period, ego really hits. The ego can be viscious and does not want you making this dedication.

These cycles seem to be followed by many people. Do not be overly concerned if you haven't noticed them in your life.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS HIS OWN TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EACH AND EVERYONE OF US.**

You may or may not be required to go through all these cycles.

You can't absorb all there is to learn at once. I have been with the Course for eight years (at the time of this printing) and still learning and absorbing what the Course is teaching. This is a continuous growth process. On an airplane recently I picked up the Text and started to read a section, where I have it marked with my own code. The pages are underscored, highlighted, boxed, asterisked, checked and then double checked. Each reading required a new code. I looked at the one or two lines not marked and wondered why they were missed and took my pen and shaded them in. Now there aren't any pages where coding doesn't cover and recover almost every line. Someone recently suggested that the new editions of the Course be printed with yellow pages to save us the time spent on highlighting.

In establishing the Personal Transformation Counselor Training program\*, Bette and I had gone

\*Personal Transformation Counseling — spiritual psychotherapy based on A Course in Miracles. For information contact Miracle Experience, Inc., PO Box 158, Islip Terrace, New York 11752-0158, (516) 277-0218.

through the Text line for line, and yet I still seemed to miss coding something. It's not that I didn't see it before, of course I had, but I was in a different space. My dedication had deepened again. I wanted to see something more, and the Course is always there to oblige.

We are all ready to say, "Let's continue. I want to know what this Course is saying so I can apply the concepts in my life and find peace." With this statement we have expressed a "little willingness" to be guided through this Course. Hand in hand with our little willingness and faith in the Holy Spirit, we travel the voyage of DISCOVERY together.

## PRAYER

## PRAYER

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There is a book called "The Song of Prayer"\* which came after the dictation of the first three books of the Course. It discusses what prayer is and how to pray. Prayer is compared to a ladder with each progressive step upward as a rung; each rung a type of prayer. We pray for specifics, for others, for ourselves, but the final rung is simply and profoundly filling your mind with God. That is the ultimate prayer. Remember prayer is not the words you use or the affirmations you make. It is what is in your heart.

### **Prayer — 24 Hours-A-Day Thinking**

I used to go to synagogue, put on my prayer shawl, open my prayer book and loudly sing out my Hebrew prayers. This way everyone could hear; and God should hear me. Yet in my mind while I was uttering the words, I was thinking about who would attack me in business and what I would need to do to protect myself. I was never disappointed. Someone always tried to attack me and I always had to protect myself.

You see, belief in attack was my prayer. Not my words and affirmations which were valueless. In my mind were my fears, anxieties, mistrust, and my world reflected this. The minute I learned to send out love to people and trust my brothers my world changed.

### **OUR PRAYER IS THEREFORE OUR TWENTY-FOUR-HOURS-A-DAY THINKING.**

If you are into ego (guilt, anger and fear) this is what you will get into your life. You get out of life

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what you put into it. What do most people put into life? Doubt, worry, fear, anger. So don't blame God. If this is what you put into your life, this is what you get. We are asked to do one thing: LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER. And since we all have trouble doing this we have to learn how to let love flow. We can't be taught to love, but can be taught how to remove the blocks to the awareness of the love which is always there. Those blocks are guilt, anger and fear.

**Because of Guilt, Anger, Fear (GAF)  
You experience Fear Of God (FOG)  
So need Love And Forgiveness (LAF)  
To remember GOD**

*Remember this magic formula:*

**GAF → FOG + LAF → GOD**

FOG comes from GAF and you can eliminate it with a good LAF; and now GOD can be remembered. Put a smile on your face and stop taking yourself and life so seriously. It's all not really happening anyway. We need, however, to let the Holy Spirit teach us it is all an illusion. Not just the bad is an illusion, but the good as well. But if you have a choice wouldn't you want a happy dream rather than a nightmare?

### **Your Way Is Different**

People get confused when the Course says we "need do nothing." This does not mean you sit like a bump on a log with your finger in your navel saying "let manna from heaven feed me." Perhaps your assignment is to be that mystic in the Himalayas with your finger in your navel contemplating the mysteries

of the Universe, while disciples bring you food. If that is what you need to do you will do it. I thank God I don't have to do that because everytime I put my finger in my navel all I get is lint. Therefore, bless those people that are called upon to do that because if it weren't for them you or I might have to. Their work is essential, but our way will be different!

I enjoy meat, I enjoy ice cream sundaes, I enjoy people. I enjoy working out my assignment through my relationships and the interactions with those around me. This is the basic assignment in the Western world, where we need it: THE HEALING OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH LOVING INTERACTION. (Perhaps we are all Eastern mystics reincarnating into the technologically oriented West, bringing mysticism to modern man. A balance must take place.) The Holy Spirit uses everything in this illusion to teach us peace. Remember, therefore, the biggest demonstration you can make is healing your relationships. This is our way because each person represents your relationship with God and the whole Sonship.

### **LAF Is the Way**

I would love to see us all enjoying the nonsense we take so seriously. And this is the way we can do it: Not by saying, "it is not important," it certainly is,

**BUT BY LOOKING AT EVERYTHING THROUGH  
THE HOLY SPIRIT'S EYES.**

He sees only love or a call for love. The anti-christ is the person "with a grouch on" because Christ is ex-

perienced as JOY. If you want to know what the Christ is, look in the mirror and smile. Take a good look at yourself, isn't it marvelous? This is the way God wants you to be.

When you have your moments of doubt, keep the faith! This is what Jesus teaches:

**KEEP THE FAITH, TRUST YOUR BROTHER, AND  
TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The Holy Spirit is the perfect Answer to all of our problems. We have been given the perfect learning tools, **LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**. We have been given the perfect process of remembering, **THE ATONEMENT. BY LEARNING TO LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO CAN SHOW US THE TRUTH**, we have been given the perfect method of seeing differently. Now peace can come to all humanity and to earth.

Let us all join together in the prayer of a good LAF. Let love and forgiveness fill your mind and heart and a smile will shine all over the world. Now we see the Christ in each and everyone of us through the joy we share.

**HALLELUJAH! THE SECOND  
COMING IS UNDERWAY!**

## GOALSETTING

## GOALSETTING

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A gentleman asked me about goalsetting. He was somewhat confused because many metaphysical books suggest setting your goal and keeping at it. He wanted to know what the Course said about goalsetting. Bear in mind, all of the metaphysical goalsetting processes work from the mental plane and are therefore effective, extremely effective. The mind is God's Mind working and is able to manifest anything you hold in it long enough. If at the moment your immediate goal is a job, money or a new home, then using the "wheel of fortune" or "imaging" it will work effectively. In delineating your goal, I do caution you, even at this point not to set time and space limitations. Many people come to me and say they have their five year plan. "In five years I am going to be a millionaire." They have it laid out, step 1, step 2, step 3, seemingly "perfect" goalsetting. My answer to them is, "That's marvelous, if you want to do it in five years. The Holy Spirit, however, may want to do it in two, but if you insist on five, we'll take as much time as you want!"

### **The Ultimate Goal**

All of this can be fine. But goalsetting in terms of A Course in Miracles is *not delineating anything*. Instead the Course suggests we ask the Holy Spirit, "What is HIS Will for me today?" This is the ultimate in goalsetting: TO ALIGN YOUR WILL WITH GOD'S WILL BECAUSE IT IS THE SAME WILL. If one need only fill one's sense of separation from God, then you



need do only what God Wills for you — be peaceful, be joyful and be loving. This is His Will for you. The Holy Spirit will bring into your life the forms in which this can take place. These forms will then be the best way for you to experience peace, joy and love. The ultimate goal any one person can have is to be peaceful and loving today. Not tomorrow, not next year, but today. The minute we say, "I will have my happiness in five years," we are saying our happiness is not here right now. It is down the road and will, therefore, remain down the road. No amount of imaging is going to bring it any closer, because in mind you have said it is down there.

**IT IS HERE AND NOW.** Have your true goal set here and now. It is not any great demonstration to have a million dollars in your pocket and say, "I am a millionaire." It IS an affirmation of faith to not have it in your pocket but to know you will be taken care of. Therefore, with any goalsetting it is best to go right to the Top and ask, "What is Your Will for me today?"

This defies a lot of everyday business procedures. But the Holy Spirit will work within that framework also and He will give you what is God's Will for today. Today may be a day of scheduling something you may need to do next week or next year. For example, when we received the phone call to bring us to Egypt it was February and we weren't to make the trip until the next November, but we asked, "Is this what You want for us in November?" The Answer was to go ahead and make the plans today, it was O.K. The trip was still ten months in the future but planning it now was alright because the Holy Spirit

sanctioned it. When Bette and I start each morning we ask, "What do you want us to do today?" When you are focused correctly in the present it will automatically be carried over into the future.

### **Here And Now**

Conversely, when you are focused in the past and keep reliving the past in your mind; keep trying to clean up the past; keep thinking of all the mistakes you made, the mind is obviously focused there. This will automatically project the past right into the future by using the present as a bridge connecting the two. Symbolically if your left hand is extended into the past (where you are reliving in mind the mistakes, pain and consequent guilt of the past) and your right hand extended into the future (where you are fearful of repeating mistakes, pain and guilt) you have crucified yourself in the Now. It is that simple.

**BE FOCUSED HERE AND NOW.** The only instant there is, is right now. Even the instant of reading this line is gone. So the only thing that is real is what is here and now. Focus here and now and it will become the future. For the ego uses the past as the future. What was the past becomes the future. The Holy Spirit does not look at the past because it is gone and not real. He only looks at what you are to do now to bring you peace, and this will automatically bring peace into the future, for Now is all there is in time and space.

### **Be You In Charge**

Therefore, in setting goals, do not put limitations. Say you are entitled to God's Will, and as you focus

only on God's Will for you today all your needs will be met. You may think you are worthy of a Mercedes Benz, but the Holy Spirit may need you to be in the backwoods of Arkansas and the Mercedes Benz would not get you through the hills and trees. So when you are presented with the little VW, which can get you through the woods to do your job, accept what is presented. It will bring you the most satisfaction at that time. Then when the assignment in the woods is completed you may find the Mercedes Benz waiting for you as the appropriate vehicle to continue your assignment.

Keep in mind the final Workbook Lesson, "This holy instant would I give to You. Be You in charge." Note that it says not me, but YOU in charge, because the Holy Spirit knows what you need and what will bring you happiness. Remember if He wants you to get the message loud and clear, you will hear it! "Do this, do that." He may also say, "Relax, I am with you and watch what happens." Then go through your daily routine and watch what does happen. Doors open, telephone calls come in, people invite you here and there. You didn't have to DO anything. You needed only to be loving and accepting.

**"THY WILL BE DONE," OUR  
ONLY TRUE GOAL!**

## **THE GOALS OF SPECIALNESS**

## THE GOALS OF SPECIALNESS

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What does specialness mean in A Course in Miracles? Let's take a good look. To help you understand let us share this simple analogy.

Picture a circle. Although God cannot be circumscribed, we will assume for this discussion that this circle represents God and Totality. Within this circle are dots. It is filled with dots. These are the Thoughts of God which comprise the Sonship, which the Course calls the Christ. The Christ is the Son of God and is all the simultaneous and collective thinking of God.

### Do We Need A "Soulmate"?

Because of my distorted perception, I see individual dots rather than the Oneness of the Sonship. Let us assume that one dot is me, and across the Sonship is another dot called "Mary." As I peruse the Sonship I spot Mary and something goes off in me wherein I say to myself, "Vavavavooooom! Look at that Mary! She is a luscious dish. She's gorgeous, kind, clean, brave and reverent. She is all the things I feel I must have in my life." In my opinion she and only she seems to complete me and I make her stand alone. What I have done is make Mary so special and uniquely different that I can't stand to share her with anyone. Upon Mary, and Mary alone I place the sole responsibility, for the rest of her life and mine, *to make me happy!* I tell Mary I do this because I LOVE HER.

We seem to feel we need a "soulmate". That one person who can "complete" us, and fill all our per-



ceived "needs". We feel that this is the one person we have always wanted and looked for. We must have him or her in our life. Ego has programmed us to search the Universe for this one soulmate; and then we proceed to attempt to change them and in so doing make each other miserable. This is what the ego wants but cleverly conceals.

At the deepest levels of mind a recognition occurs when we see this special partner. They represent the erroneous belief that we were created incomplete. They constantly remind us that we need them to make us complete and that we believe God did not make us the way He should have. Because of this we actually hate this person. We feel extreme guilt over our hate. When we get glimpses of the disgust the other person seems to engender in us we are experiencing the *special hate relationship*. In order, however, to hide this hate, for which we feel guilty, we over-compensate and go through all the motions of a "romantic love" relationship.

### **THE SPECIAL LOVE RELATIONSHIP BECOMES A COVER OVER OUR HATE.**

This special love relationship takes two forms:  
No. 1 — Mary has the qualities I do not have. God created her better than me and in order to get these qualities I must get them from her. Therefore, I bring her into my life, even if I have to marry her to do it!  
No. 2 — I look at Mary and feel she is nothing without me. She needs me in order to be complete. She needs me to survive and she had better be thankful I am in her life. This gives me the right to do whatever I

want to her. (Ladies, don't take this personally, the reverse is true also.) The ego defense system says "equalize" this injustice. Ego never says raise yourself to the higher level. Instead ego insists you pull the other down to the lower.

Love creates impartially because:

### **GOD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CREATOR!**

As an Equal Opportunity Creator He would never give one child more than He gave another. Do we honestly feel a loving parent would give more to one child than to another? We certainly wouldn't do that to our own children, why do we think God would do it to His? This is, however, what the ego would have us believe.

### **Everyday Guilt Opportunities**

*The goal of specialness is separation.* This goal is the opposite of love's.

Ego anagrammatically can be called EVERYDAY GUILT OPPORTUNITIES. Ego keeps us constantly feeling separated from God and each other leading directly to feelings of guilt. When a loved one, for whatever the seeming reason, says, "Get away from me", how do we feel? Rejected? Of course! It follows that we will now feel guilty of some wrongdoing which caused the rejection. We project this guilt out angrily, in an attempt to get rid of it causing ourselves to feel separated. Since the goal of specialness is to keep you feeling separated ego will look for justification to see attack and then counter attack at the

slightest provocation. The people we live with and love are the ones who bear the brunt of these attacks.

If I reject you, you are certainly going to feel that I, (the symbol of God in your life; the one ego says gives you all the blessings and happiness that fulfill you) have rejected you for some good reason, therefore you must feel unworthy. You become terrified that God or the God symbol is going to punish you. This is where all fear comes from. Since you can't stand this pain you look at your partner and say, "If it weren't for you in my life I wouldn't feel this way."

You gather all the feelings of guilt and project them onto the other in anger. Attack now seems justified. We are God symbols to each other and mistakenly give each other the responsibility to make each happy, to fill the seeming void, to make each complete. We give each other authority to make us happy or miserable.

We can, however, see these people as God created them and in this way remember our perfection. You can't walk around saying, "I am perfect, but Joe isn't!" We have walked for a lifetime saying, "I am perfect" and looked down our noses at those around us. We have placed ourselves into special love relationship category No. 2 of feeling superior. Or we attempt to see another as better (we call it "perfect") while still holding onto our own guilt, and thereby fall into category No. 1.

### Seeing The Christ

This will continue until we ask the Holy Spirit to help us see the Christ in that person. How do you see

the Christ? We have been told to look for the Christ. What does that mean specifically, without ambiguity?

You see the Christ WHEN YOU FEEL JOY. When you see someone and can honestly say, "Boy am I glad to see you", you have recognized the love in him and that is the Christ. When you feel JOY you are seeing the Christ. Forget the ambiguities and platitudes, like "seeing the oneness and the light" and instead experience what that means. When someone smiles at you and you smile in return, you have reflected the Christ to each other.

God created us all equally. He gave unto all of us the same qualities which are of Him. God is beyond physical form and polarity. He is beyond energy. Love has no boundaries nor gender and, therefore, neither do you.

*Here is an equation to remember:*

**GAF → FOG + LAF → GOD**

**GUILT, ANGER, FEAR lead to FEAR OF GOD**  
and is corrected by **LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**  
which leads to **GOD**.

On page 544 of the Text it states that a mad idea entered the mind of the Son of God and he forgot to laugh. Later the Text goes on to say, together, hand in hand, we will laugh this illusion away. The answer to the special relationship will be the HEALED or HOLY RELATIONSHIP where we can see the ridiculousness of specialness.

## **The Dignity of Non-Interference**

Simply stated, the special relationship is based on getting from the other person. A holy relationship is based on giving to the other knowing that as you give you receive. We learn to see our relationships differently. **AND THIS MUST BE DONE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He is the **ONLY** One Who can see the perfection and show it to us. If you have difficulty with the amorphous "Holy Spirit", you have the perfect role model, friend and brother of Jesus to talk to. It doesn't matter if you are Christian or Jew. He is above those labels!

Specialness states that your happiness is dependent upon a person, a place, a thing, an accomplishment, or anything other than God's love. It could be a job, a home, a mode of life. All are substitutes for God's love. Regardless of what we think about ourselves and each other, God loves us. Recognizing this will fill our perceived lacks. He knows that what we project onto each other is madness and is not happening at all. It is all a deluded mind making an illusion and seeing it as very vivid; a paper tiger, a shadow. God does not see this madness and couldn't care less. He gave the whole job of cleaning up this mess to the Holy Spirit.

### **HE DOESN'T DIGNIFY OUR MADNESS WITH ATTEMPTS TO CORRECT IT HIMSELF.**

How could He correct something He didn't create and, therefore, is not really there? If He did create it, it would have been created perfectly, and it wouldn't need correction. The mere fact that we have a prob-

lem and believe we are imperfect means that in our mind God doesn't know what He is doing and, therefore, we had better do it better than Him. We immediately feel guilt when we think this and fear God Who now seems to be our enemy in a power-play. This is called the authority problem and is a bad dream. We thought we could do the job better than God and went about trying to do so. All we accomplished is the making of one mass hallucination. We feel guilty over our attempt.

We won't admit to our guilt; we project it out and every one around us seems to be the cause of our problems. We say, "They did it to me, God. I'm innocent." Instead of saying, "My brother is innocent and because he is, so am I." This course focuses on seeing your brother's holiness before you attempt to see your own. It will be through your brother's holiness that you will be able to remember your own. You are not your brother's keeper. **YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER.** What you do for that person you are doing for yourself. As you free him you automatically free yourself. The way you want to see yourself is how you will see your brother for as you give you receive.

If you ask to see your brother's holiness the Holy Spirit will show you that. But if you look to that person to make you complete the ego will have you see specialness instead! These attitudes are carried right into the bedroom. You will either unconditionally love your spouse/love partner, or you will unconditionally attack your spouse/love partner. And you can attack by using a "loving" sexual act. This is where

frustration enters and women walk away and say, "Animal!" and men say, "Big deal!" You have attacked each other through a very intimate experience. If it is unconditional love you will look to give to the other person without any thought of what you are going to receive. But if you go to the connubial bed with the thought that you are going to get from the other, you are saying you are going to take it from them. And this is attack. Where is the love hidden that you want to take from the partner? Is it a necklace or an ankle bracelet worn on the body? Of course not! The ego dictates that love is hidden IN the body and this is where you must go to get it.

The loving is in the giving, and you will automatically receive. In taking care of your partner you will automatically be taking care of yourself. You cannot give what you do not already have. If you have forgotten that you have love in you, the giving of it to others will show that it was yours already. In the release of your own love you will find joy. And in letting the Holy Spirit show you the perfection of your partner you will find your own. Now the goal of specialness has been translated into the goal of holiness and love reigns.

## **THE MESSAGE OF THE CRUCIFIXION**



## THE MESSAGE OF THE CRUCIFIXION

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The Message of the Crucifixion is always an appropriate subject because at one point or another we will feel persecuted or persecuting. The Text deals with the lesson of the crucifixion and uses a very extreme example which will be discussed later, to show what guilt, anger and fear can do in a relationship. Let us first review a few concepts:

1 — Anger always involves projection of separation.

2 — Anger is always one's own responsibility. The emphasis is to place blame on another.

3 — Ego is the concept that we are guilty. We are sinners because we believe we have sinned against God and ego would insist we accept this as truth.

We all represent God symbols for each other and everytime we have a disagreement we feel we are attacking God, or God is attacking us, causing guilt and fear. We don't want to live with this guilt because of the fear of God's retaliation. Guilt and fear therefore occur simultaneously. We dissociate ourselves as the source of the problem and project this out onto the other person, who now seems to be the cause of our discomfort. Very often this projection is directed toward God as the cause. This fills us with more guilt, leading to more fear, and the need to dissociate and project once again. This is the ego syndrome, causing us to constantly feel separated from each other, and of course God.



## Anger Is Not Justified

Anger maintains the appearance of separation because it is the projection of our guilt causing a break in our relationship with each other and with God. *But anger under any condition is not justified.* The Course does not say you will never get angry. As long as we seem to be in this illusion we will experience fear because the ego is fear. How we react to and look at this fear will determine how much peace we will feel and how long it will take for us to wake up and end this illusion. Rest assured, however, it IS God's Will that we wake up. We will begin to recognize the dynamics of ego and learn to go to the Holy Spirit for help.

## YOU CANNOT DENY GOD'S WILL, BUT YOU CAN DELAY IT.

This is your freedom of choice. As each of us hits that critical level of pain, caused by the belief we are opposing God's Will, then and only then will we look for the Alternative to pain. And each of us has hit levels of pain where we have said, "Enough already! I must be doing something wrong and I need help." Then we were ready to look at what we had been doing and want something else.

The message of the crucifixion has many ramifications. We believe that in order to expiate our sins, to remove the guilt we feel for being sinners, we must make retribution and give penance. At a conscious level we seem not to know why we feel guilty. If someone says we are wrong, we feel guilt. Keep in mind that the rabbis, preachers, psychologists, par-

ents, etc., are all going through the same syndrome we are. We all become opportunities, however, to see the reflection of our guiltlessness in each other. People become doctors, for instance, so that they can be afforded 24-hours-a-day opportunities to have their patients show them that sickness is not real. But if sickness were real, no amount of "magic" could correct it, because what is real is eternal and unchanging. Psychologists are given constant reminders through their patients that guilt is not real. Hellfire and damnation preachers are given constant opportunities to give up their belief in a vengeful God.

The Course explains that crucifixion is the last useless journey a Son of God need take. Jesus's demonstration of crucifixion taught on many levels. The lesson of the unreality of death was only one. The most important lesson, however, was the demonstration of love and removal of guilt. We will see how this affects our special relationships. Jesus emphasizes that we do not have to be crucified to prove that we are guiltless. We do not have to go through what he went through and we can learn from his experience.

## The Self-Inflicted Punishment

We have the freedom to choose to be persecuted or to persecute. More precisely, it is our decision to see ourselves as persecuted. People lose their jobs and feel their boss doesn't like them. "He persecuted me, crucified me. He was on my back and wouldn't let me do my job properly. He's an SOB." (Keeping in mind that we can see the good also, I want to give you my definition of SOB — Son of Boss; or in other words

Son of God. You don't have to hear it as a bad term.) We elect to see ourselves as persecuted because we think people, places, events and circumstances have disappointed us. A goal of the ego is to make you feel that everything "out there" is against you and you are a victim of the world. If we accept this concept we will never want to look within for the peaceful answer. You will always feel that you are a victim, your boss doesn't like you, your wife doesn't understand you, your kids detest you; all leading to excuse after excuse after excuse. This is self-inflicted punishment. You don't have to do it this way, but it shifts the burden of responsibility onto those external conditions. We never are able to get the people around us to change but the game of trying to convince them to change goes on. We worry about getting along with extraterrestrials while we can't even get along with our neighbors, or the people we are sleeping with. It's time we learned how.

All situations in life are neutral. They are simply experiences we can see as joyful or painful depending on the value we place on them. A knife by itself is neutral but in the hands of a murderer it can take a life; in the hands of a surgeon it can save a life. But the knife itself is meaningless. The value you place on the knife makes it seem joyful or painful. Extend this to a marriage which by itself is neutral. You either bring peace to the marriage or chaos. You do not find happiness in the marriage structure but you bring your happiness *to* the structure. Should you bring chaos to the structure it is not your spouse's fault, because interestingly he or she is you.

## **YOU ARE NOT YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER. YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER.**

When you attack him you are attacking yourself.

We think of marriage in the Hollywood version of John carrying Mary over the threshold; the doors close on the ivy covered cottage and the words flash across the screen, The End. Everyone inwardly snickers because we know it is not the end, but only the beginning! Now that the doors are closed John and Mary have to start living together. The dumping of guilt and projection of anger become the myriad forms by which we try to change each other. When you react as if you are being crucified you are making very definite statements:

1 — You feel separated.

2 — You feel that God doesn't love you anymore.

3 — You feel God is the enemy and someone to be feared.

This fear of God is seen reflected in those people you live with. When we are no longer sharing a common path with the same goal and, therefore, sharing the experience joyfully, we feel pain because we feel separated. And it is this sense of separation that makes us angry. We feel angry and guilty about not having a common goal and we promptly project blame onto the other person.

The form of crucifixion doesn't matter; whether you tie knots in his shoelaces or walk around with a frown. We are still persecuting and feeling persecuted. Anytime you find yourself in a place where you are feeling persecuted recognize you are simply

feeling separated. The ego has blocked your memory of your spiritual connection with your brother, and you see him as a separated entity called a body. Your holiness and your brother's is now forgotten. All crucifixion ultimately becomes an assault on the body since the ego has made you believe in separation and only bodies can be separated.

### **The Perfect Murder Mystery**

We don't really see the Christ with our eyes. Even when we image our brother in our minds, we see the figure, shape and form. We then say we either cannot live without that body or we cannot live with that body. We identify our brother with his body losing touch with his holiness and our spiritual connection. *We have forgotten that the body is not of God.*

Most of us learned that God created our bodies as the living temple of Himself on earth. But I ask you, "Can God die? Can He be destroyed? Of course not! He is eternal. But the body does die and it can be destroyed. Therefore, it cannot be of God. The time is coming for us to look at these misconceptions.

That which is destructable is not real. The destruction of the body not only proves that it is not real, but shows that it doesn't count. It is not of God and reality, and so nothing can really be happening. Our angry persecutions and attempts to crucify are not real either and so no real damage is being done.

This builds up to a very important point: Anger, guilt and fear make us feel that we are crucified, but you cannot be persecuted in reality. Yes, the body can be attacked, torn and destroyed. But you are not your

body, and therefore, cannot be persecuted nor truly harmed in any way. Everytime we say we are our body we are saying, "I can be attacked." Fear and anger now result with guilt not far behind. Now we must defend ourselves. Every time we are angry this is what we are demonstrating to ourselves and others.

When we perceive ourselves as attacked we are saying, "I am a body and this body can be hurt. I can be hurt and I best protect myself." The rallying call of the ego is, "Protect the body!" The rallying call of the Holy Spirit is, "Be peaceful, I will show you, you cannot be truly hurt."

The ego has written the perfect murder mystery. Who persecuted and killed us? And what we find out is that no one ever died! Spirit, our true reality, can never change in anyway, and for sure could never die.

### **"There Is No Sin"**

We can only be persecuted if we *believe* the attack is real. The Holy Spirit is the Voice for God. He is the Voice with the peaceful answer and His only message for us is,

**"HOLY CHILD OF GOD, YOU ARE GUILTLESS, AND SO IS YOUR BROTHER. THERE IS NO SIN."**

Sin is the belief that you can oppose God's Will. Bodies and form would be in opposition to God's Will but as discussed, they are not real. Therefore, God's Will has never been opposed. In Course terminology,



our freedom to believe bodies are real, and God's Will can be opposed, is not Free Will.

**FREE WILL IS SHARED BETWEEN YOU AND THE FATHER IN REALITY. YOU CAN FORGET IT. YOU CAN DELAY IT. BUT YOU CANNOT DENY IT.**

The pain we feel occurs because we think we can deny God's Will and have a will of our own. There is no Will other than God's and this is your Will also. And what does God will with His Son?

**WE ARE LOVING CO-CREATORS WITH HIM.**

People want to know why God does not cure illness. He knows illness isn't real. Why doesn't He stop wars? Wars aren't really happening. These are mad, insane dreams in which we believe we have another will than God's. People pray, "God forgive me." God never forgives because he never condemns. He knows everything we seem to be doing isn't really happening at all. The only thing here that is real is your loving thoughts which you share with God. These are your creations which are held in Heaven for you. When we get to that last mythical Judgment Day when we believe we have acquired merits and demerits, and wonder if we will go up, down, or be placed on hold for eternity, we will find that the only thing God remembers and recognizes is love. *In His eyes you have never changed, you have always been love, extended.* When you weren't being loving you find that you weren't really thinking at all. The only real thoughts are those shared with God

and they extend through eternity. When you were angry and upset you only believed you were thinking.

The spiritual demonstration of Jesus is that you teach what you need and want to learn. You may believe in a thought system, but this doesn't mean that the system is correct. However, you will teach what you believe, and if you believe in persecution, you will go through life teaching persecution, "As you sow you shall reap." When you believe you can be attacked and the world is against you, you will believe your way to salvation is to be crucified. This is what you will experience twenty-four hours a day. You will, however, get every opportunity to undo that belief system.

While on the cross Jesus accomplished something which was completely misunderstood. We thought he took sins of the world upon his shoulders and died for us. Instead he taught that

**SIN WAS NOT REAL**

He did not teach persecution nor crucifixion. He taught only love. And his final lesson on the cross was to stay attuned to the Voice for God, the Holy Spirit, Who constantly reminded him that his brothers were not attacking him. They may have been harming the body, but the body was not him. This is why he did not react with anger. He never said, "What are you guys doing to me? Boy am I going to get after you when this is over. Hey Father, give them a zap!" Instead he demonstrated that attack did not cause him to see them as sinners. He judged them not.

As he demonstrated that persecution can be seen differently he showed us the way to be reborn. He recognized his "attackers" projections of guilt, anger and fear and understood this was their belief in separation. He taught oneness by not teaching retaliation. He reminded everyone that we are all God's children and if we believe this we could do as he did. And not only would we do as he did, but more, because we will be around longer. He only had three years to demonstrate to the world. When he said, "I am the way," he merely meant, "Follow what I am saying, listen to me and I will demonstrate that I am not a body and neither are you." Under the severest of conditions in your life you too can learn that persecution is not real and gives you no cause for anger, guilt or fear. None of us are asked to be physically crucified because this is not what proves the point. We are asked to recognize that God does not punish us and there is never any justification for attack and counter-attack.

### **The Call For Love**

Whenever you recognize an attack you are saying you are separated from the seeming attacker and must now defend yourself, thus reinforcing separation. Jesus' demonstration with Pontius Pilot was that he said nothing, judged no one, accused no one, retaliated against no one. Pilot had to admit this man was innocent because he didn't defend himself and add energy to separation, guilt and fear.

Remember, we are not asked to replicate Jesus' example through crucifixion, we are asked to extend love which he *did* demonstrate.

### **LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER**

is the answer because when you are loving you are connected. You can see your brother's attack as a way of him getting your attention. He is stating, "I feel separated from you." These seeming attacks are really our brother's call for love. It is not always easy to see it this way. It is interesting that we can easily see calls for love when they are from a six or seven year old child. When that child wakes from a nightmare, screaming and yelling at the parent, the parent doesn't beat the child saying, "You are attacking me!" The parent instinctively recognizes the child is fearful because he thinks he has been through a traumatic event. The parent soothes the child, caresses him, strokes away his fears and reminds him that he only had a nightmare. Soon the child feels secure and connected with the parent's love and relaxes. But allow the same emotional infant to come at us in a twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty year old body and immediately we see it as an attack and need to defend ourselves. They too are calling for our love. But it will only be through the Holy Spirit's perspective that we will be able to see it this way. You can't recognize the call for love when you are in ego (fear, anger, guilt) because you will see it as an attack. You will attack in return and afterwards feel remorse and guilt.

Jesus explains that the disciples had trouble understanding this concept also, so don't feel bad if you don't get it right away either. The apostles lived with him for three years, twenty-four hours a day, saw him for another forty days after the resurrection, and Jesus still needed to state, "You still do not under-



stand." But he also assured us we will learn in time. *Impatience only makes us feel that God is punishing us again.* We have seen a flicker of light and we want it all, but we have much more to learn in listening to the Voice for God, the Holy Spirit. True, it can happen to any of us in an instant because God is never away from His children, but in order to experience the reflection of God even in this dream we must meet the conditions.

### **Meet The Conditions**

God is peace and love. These are the conditions we must learn. Guilt, anger and fear are not peaceful, so we must learn to meet the right conditions. Hate and fear seem to be real because it is experienced so vividly. Theoretically, as a child of God, I could jump off the Empire State Building and fly, because I am limitless. But I won't do it because I don't *believe* it yet. I know its true but I haven't got the faith to be able to walk on water or to fly like a bird, *or to forgive when I see attack.* Intellectually I know how, but I haven't the faith yet to do it.

### **I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TEACH ME HOW.**

We have bought the concept that we are separated from God, and that we are here to suffer and must prove our worthiness through travail and anguish. We believe God is vengeful and all the seeming "tests" we go through are somehow for our own "good." Let me assure you that any painful experience you have gone through is not God's test. Pain is only our resistance to letting the Voice for God assure

us that we are connected in love and separation is not real. The Holy Spirit never gives you anything that is frightening. That is the ego's doing. You need do nothing but awaken from the dream to the truth. The Holy Spirit reminds us continually of who we are, God's Child.

You cannot remember your holiness if you are seeing your brother as not holy. On the cross, Jesus saw every one of his persecutors as holy children of God, though mistaken and fearful. He showed that his body was an illusion and you can't harm an illusion. Remember the illusion also includes the persecuted, the persecutor, the world and everything in it, including pain and suffering.

We are not here to prove that we can change people. Who can change what is already perfect? God created us all perfect as spirit. Only the ego in its arrogance can think that it can change something that is perfect. The ego is insidious. It tells you that at the end of life is death, oblivion and that there is no God. It then says, "If I allow them to believe in this, they will believe that when they die so will I." The ego wants to perpetuate itself. And so it tells us, "Wait, there is something after death. It is God's Last Judgment upon you." Now we have to face God Who is going to get us for everything we ever did. We not only face the fear of death but also the fear of God's vengeance. Since, according to ego, we must be sinners, the ego says we must pay! Where are we going to pay for our sins? In Hell, where the ego will still pursue you to keep you feeling miserable and separated.

Don't try to make sense out of this. The ego is totally insane, and yet we have accepted it. We have bought the concept that God is vengeful and we will have to face His judgment which will send us to Hell where we will then spend eternity paying for something we can't remember. The ego has perpetuated the separation, guilt, and the belief that sin is real. It is self-sustaining in its own misery. We keep believing God has done this. He hasn't! He just keeps waiting for us to awaken from this madness.

Remember, as you teach you will learn. React as if you are persecuted and you will teach persecution and thereby learn it. When you hear only one Voice, the Voice of the Holy Spirit, speaking *for* God, you will realize that you are never called upon to sacrifice. In healing your special relationships you are never called upon to give up your wives, your husbands, your lovers, your cars, your jobs or your homes. But you are asked to give up the value you have placed on those people, places and things that bring you happiness. God does not take these things from you, because you are entitled to the gifts of the illusion, as long as you learn that your happiness does not depend on these things. If you do, you have made a god of them.

### **The Source Of Happiness**

When we worship the god of sickness we are believing in sickness and therefore feel we need health of the *body*. When people are concerned about the health of their body they are really saying they believe in sickness. If they eat the right amount of

vitamins, do the right amount of exercise, they believe their health is assured. And yet they still get ill because they believe sickness is real and they must defend themselves against it. They believe they are a body and can be destroyed. They, therefore, try to do everything in their power to keep the body going. They have completely forgotten they are spirit and perfect, connected to their brothers in love. Sickness comes from the belief that you are separated from God and your brothers and that you are therefore a body, not as God created you.

Jesus demonstrated that his happiness did not depend upon whether he could walk upon water. It did not depend upon whether the leper was healed, the blind could see or the crippled walk. His happiness depended only upon love. He knew that what made him happy was God's love expressed through him and extended to all of God's Son. Jesus demonstrated that no matter what was done to him, he loved everyone, because he heard their call for his love. He said... Take my body. Take everything and it doesn't matter because it is not the Source of my happiness. *The Source of my happiness and salvation is in recognizing I am one with you!* The Father and the Son are one and cannot be separated. God is Mind. Mind thinks. The product of thinking is Thought. The Thought of God is His Creation, His Son. And Thought can never be separated from the mind that thought it. Only in a mad delusion could we entertain the idea that we are separated from God and each other.

All the anguish in our special relationships comes from believing that we are separated and that we

must complete ourselves through each other. We are told, "Thou shalt have no other God's before Me." This is the prime commandment and yet we place God last. We say, "When all else fails, try God." The Course is telling us,

**BEFORE ALL ELSE FAILS GO TO GOD AND SAVE YOURSELF THE PAIN.**

An athiest believe that there is no God and, therefore, no Will of God for him. *But only if you have the thought of God in your mind could you deny Him, proving that God is in your mind.* And as long as the thought is here, no matter how strongly denied, the Holy Spirit is with you.

A martyr believes that God's Will for him is different than his own will for himself. We all think we want joy in our lives and when we experience pain we believe God is making us go through that. Our pain seems to come from a different will than our own. We are actually causing ourselves all the pain and projecting the cause onto God. Both atheist and martyr need correction.

**He Calls For Teachers**

People used to say to me how advanced they felt Bette and I were. We were out every night talking about A Course in Miracles. I immediately corrected them by saying we aren't more advanced, we're simply recognizing how screwed up we really are! You may only need to hear this message one night a week, but we are so screwed up we need to hear it seven nights a week. As you teach so shall you learn, and

when you become ready to learn you are given ample opportunity to demonstrate and teach what you have to learn.

I used to be a babbling idiot. I sounded articulate and could quote you spiritual chapter and verse, but I judged and condemned. When I knew there had to be a better way I found A Course in Miracles. *I learned that I must take the responsibility of asking the Holy Spirit, "How can I be forgiving?"* I needed to learn how to demonstrate and not just intellectualize. What's the use of having the greatest recipe in the world if you never prepare it? Here I am still screwed up but again being given an opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit so I can demonstrate forgiveness and thereby learn it.

The summation of this discourse is, **TEACH ONLY LOVE FOR THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE.** Teach only love and you will be given every opportunity to express that. It will not be traumatic to you. It will be just another wonderful experience to bless and be blessed. The Holy Spirit does not call for martyrs. He calls instead for teachers. What are you going to teach? If you are teaching the Holy Spirit's message you are teaching love. But remember, if you choose to teach ego's message you will have ample opportunity to teach crucifixion. Jesus, however, taught that crucifixion is not the way, it doesn't accomplish anything. He demonstrated that you need not suffer any longer. The suffering we feel only occurs when we believe we are opposing God's Will. Jesus showed that there is never suffering when you do God's Will.

What then is the message of the crucifixion?

*Teach and, therefore, demonstrate only love and forgiveness. And through this process of letting the Holy Spirit guide our lives we will begin to experience God's Will which is truly peace, joy and happiness.*

## THE HEALED RELATIONSHIP

The special relationship can be equated with an unholy relationship because the goals of a special relationship are slavery, control and manipulation. The goal is to take from your brother what you think you have been cheated of; and, therefore, to punish your brother if you cannot get it from him. The Answer to the special relationship is the healed relationship, or if you will, the holy relationship.

**This Is Not Reality!**

The world we experience and see around us, with all its forms is called the illusion. All fear, depression, sickness, war and negativity are characteristic of this world. *This is not Reality!* Reality can be equated with Heaven. The world we seem to be living in is the opposite of that. But let us ask the question, "What kind of a world would God have made if He had made one?" It would be a world where there is only love and forgiveness and holy relationships, without sickness, poverty, death and anxiety. This would be a world seen only through the eyes of love and forgiveness. The form would remain the same (the people, the trees, the buildings), but your perception of that world would be changed. You would see a reflection of God's love everywhere. Every person would be your loving brother, every situation would be a loving experience. There would be no anger, no fear. It would be a world reflecting Heaven in form. This is the real world the Course describes.



The holy relationship is the expression of the holy instant in the real world. We will all eventually recognize and reach the real world. That is our ultimate aim here: to experience life within this dream as the happiest dream possible until we can wake up to the reality of Heaven.

As we progress we have instances of release when we can bring our fear of a particular problem to the Holy Spirit so the fear can be seen differently. You have asked Him to come with His perspective and wisdom into the situation. It is for this reason, you see it differently. What was frightening one minute is now seen as an opportunity to bless and be blessed, becoming a lovely moment in time.

When we are able to take fear itself and turn it over completely to the Holy Spirit, fear itself and not a particular expression of fear, we will then find that we never need slip back into the world of fear and anger. Now everything we see is an expression of the real world. The holy relationship is an expression of this holy instant in the world.

### **Is It Easy?**

Image a relationship wherein you look at a love partner and see nothing of the past, nothing of the future, no projections. You look at your partner and never again see him as argumentative, like he seemed to be. You never think of him as antisocial, as annoying. You look at him as if it were the first time you ever saw him, with his beauty untarnished by any past reference points. You accept this person as if this

were the first and last minute on earth. You are totally loving, unconditionally loving, grateful that he is in your life right now. Every bit of anger he may project on you, is automatically seen as a call for love. There is no need for you to get angry at all.

Is this possible? Yes, it is possible! Is it simple? Yes, it is simple! Is it easy? No way! Because it means we must be willing to be forgiving twenty-four hours a day with no exceptions.

We have been assured we can accomplish this. This world will be undone because everybody is going to accept the real world. This world will end, not with cataclysms! The Holy Spirit doesn't correct with war and devastation. It is going to end with a blessing, with a kiss. Once the illusion is recognized for what it is, everyone accepting the real world in their hearts, God will then help us awaken. Until that time the real world is a nice place in which to rest until we all wake up. When we have no need for the world any more it will simply disappear. The illusion will have been undone.

The Holy Spirit will still be in our minds as a constant reminder. People ask whether we will ever get ego attacks again once we all return to Heaven. No, you won't, because the Holy Spirit is from God. He is His creation and He stays in our minds for eternity always reminding us of Who we are and Who our Father is. Once we have all listened to the Holy Spirit and all awakened you can rest assured it will not happen again.

## WE HAVE THE ETERNAL REMINDER, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy instant is a reflection of what Heaven is like in this world. The very ground you walk on becomes holy because you see the holiness in your brother. Regardless of how he sees you, you see the holiness in him. When you are unconditionally loving, the relationship will reflect this. It only takes the saner one to ask for help, and the help will come.

The next question is, "Do you want this?" A holy relationship is learned. It is not a gift. The gift is that you have been given love to begin with. The problem is that we don't believe it. We must, therefore, ask the Holy Spirit to undo our programming and let Him teach us how to see people lovingly. This is learned so that the old unholy relationship can be transformed and seen anew. When you want the goal of holiness in your relationship, the whole focus of the relationship must be looked at. The original purpose was based on specialness. The partner seems more special than you are; he has certain characteristics you don't have and you are envious of him. Envy is jealousy and jealousy is hate. We feel guilty about this and cover it with the illusion of "romantic love". The question remains, "Do you want to be unconditionally loving? Do you want this kind of relationship?"

You do not have to be an ascetic. You do not have to give up your home. You do not have to give up sex. You do not have to give up anything. The only thing you give up is the investment you placed on that person, place or thing to give you happiness.

## Our Navigational Chart

If you are willing to have a holy relationship, *you must ASK for it*. People say, "How do I ask?" You know how to ask me a question. Ask the Holy Spirit the same way. He is your friend. You may not be able to see Him, therefore, you don't trust Him. I ask you a question: Have you ever taken an airplane flight? How many times have you actually seen the pilot? Have you ever remembered the flight engineer? How about the co-pilot or the navigator? In other words, most of the time when you enter a plane, the cockpit door is closed. You fly from New York to California and sit in that plane not knowing who is piloting it. Yet we absolutely trust that we are going to get there. Otherwise we wouldn't be in that plane! *We trust the pilot we can't see, yet we refuse to trust God*. If we could put the faith in the Holy Spirit that we put in a pilot our problem would be solved.

Let's take a similar analogy. You get on an ocean liner and the Captain comes on the bridge with all his braid on his sleeve and cap. The Captain says to you, "I am the Captain of this ship." Sound familiar? We are captains of our ships, masters of our destiny. But suppose the Captain went on to say, "I lost my navigational charts. I'm going to sail by luck." He has all the authority in the world because he is the Captain of that ship, master of his own destiny, but he doesn't have his navigational chart which show him where safe waters are. Would you get on that ship?

The Holy Spirit is our navigational chart. Check and ask Him, "What is safe? What am I to do? Where are the safe waters?" We take control of our ship, we

do what the Holy Spirit tells us and we find ourselves in safe water. Of course you don't have to trust the answer, but then you will be a captain without charts in unknown waters. Remember as the Manual for Teacher's tells us, the key characteristic of a teacher of God is trust. Trust! Let trust work for you.

The most difficult part of any journey is the beginning. The first step is the most difficult. Everything else is repetition. The most difficult part of the holy relationship is the first step: To have the *willingness* to want a holy relationship; the willingness to turn the relationship over to the Holy Spirit; the willingness to let guilt, anger, fear, special hate and special love be transformed by the Holy Spirit. This is the most difficult part because you must turn over control from that point on. But once you ask the Holy Spirit to take over, the invitation is accepted immediately. The Holy Spirit has waited eons of time for us to say, "Help me straighten this mess out." When He moves, He moves very quickly! What you will experience is that your relationship seems disturbed and disjunctive, because the structure of the relationship no longer fits the goal of the ego.

### **The Radical Shift**

When the Holy Spirit enters your relationship your goal is different. The goal is for holiness, unconditional love and the relinquishment of specialness. This is a radical shift and a reversal in your life. This can seem very distressing because your partner doesn't look and act the same. And neither do you. What you agreed on before you can't agree on now.

The old goal has become unsuitable. You are looking for the new goal and the Holy Spirit starts bringing about a radical shift.

This is analagous to going down the highway at ninety miles per hour and suddenly realizing you are going in the wrong direction. Stepping on the brake and reversing directions is going to cause disruption.

Why doesn't the Holy Spirit do this more slowly? If He were to do it slowly the ego would start to interfere and put its goal back into the relationship. The radical shift, distressing as it may seem doesn't allow ego to attack until you both have a chance to strongly head toward the new goal.

The structure of the special relationship is set up so that you continuously battle, with intermitant periods of quiet. Every couple knows what I mean. You have battles, then kiss and make-up. You have a relative period of quiet; a day, a week, a month, a year, a lifetime. Then the ego erupts and disillusionment sets in again. What results is a battle, followed by a period of time to recharge your batteries so you can get enough strength to battle again. This ego cycle seems unending.

It is at this point, and this is critical, the goals of both partners may differ. One partner may want holiness and the other not. The immediate question we ask is, "What is going on here?" Ego tends to answer first saying, "Break off this relationship and seek happiness in another." Another special relationship is started anew with all the same old goals, the courtship, the honeymoon and the illusion of love until disillusionment sets in. *When this begins to happen*



*it is the time for faith.* You asked the Holy Spirit to enter. You had enough faith to ask Him in, now have enough faith that He knows what to do to bring you through this.

It may very well be that the form of the relationship is supposed to end. This may be the Holy Spirit's answer; if it is it will be without anger, guilt or fear. There will in fact still be a loving relationship between the two of you. Just the form has been changed. Perhaps you are to stay together. It won't matter because there would be no sense of loss. Both partners love each other and the specialness has been transformed. I know this sounds unbelievable but we have seen people who have asked the Holy Spirit in and through divorce found themselves becoming better friends than when they were married. They have begun to cooperate and communicate and find themselves helping each other financially and emotionally. Neither one feels a sense of loss.

There was a fellow at one of the meetings who was new to the Course and was in the middle of a divorce. He asked advice because he couldn't believe what he was going through. He explained that he had been with this woman for several years. They were now at the lawyer's office every week while the lawyers played cards and he and his wife argued over property rights. They were to the point of sawing vases in half. This was breaking him financially and emotionally. They were no closer to a resolution than they were six months before.

I asked him if he had asked the Holy Spirit what to do. He said no, he was too new in the Course. So I

said, "Ask!" What did he think he needed to wait for, just go ahead and ask. I met him the following week and he said, "Paul, I knew I would see you at the meeting tonight and the most amazing thing happened. I just left the lawyer's office and everything is resolved. I did as you suggested, I asked and I couldn't believe the answer I got. When my wife's lawyer asked me if I had made up my mind, I was to say, "Yes, I want everything that my wife does NOT want."

(Follow this for a moment. He wanted everything that she did not want.) She began to realize that this man trusted her. As the husband related, he told his wife that they had bought these things together and he would again trust her to make the right decision and be fair. Her first response was that she didn't want that vase; he could have it. He replied he really didn't want the record albums, which she loved so much. They went back and forth. The wind-up was, much to the husband's surprise, when he said, "I'm really not happy with the alimony I am to give you. It is not enough. So let me give you more each month." She replied, "Thank you so much, and don't worry. If you ever run into a problem, just call me and we will work it out."

This happened over two year ago. They see each other once a week. She has remarried and he eats dinner with her and her new husband. They have habitually helped each other emotionally and financially. They all get along beautifully. You see nobody lost anything. He got more than he thought he would get, as did his wife. Right now they are getting closer

to a holy relationship because they enjoy seeing each other and are willing to be of help.

### **EVERYONE IS A WINNER WHEN YOU WORK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Sometimes we see marriages end and sometimes they continue. All an ending means is that the intense live-in commitment to learn forgiveness in this form is over.

#### **The Big Fear**

Isn't it nice to know that the ones you can't stand will come back into your life, now or in another lifetime, so you both can learn to love and forgive each other?

Everybody says no! no! I've had enough! But you haven't had enough until you learn that they are your saviors as much as we are their's. We learn that the only reason why any of us has trouble comes from our feelings of fear, anger and guilt, or the sense of being disconnected with each other. That's all! Remember, when you feel disconnected from them you are feeling isolated and separated from God. This is the "Big Fear". You can take any problem, financial, emotional, health, look at the root of it and find that you believe God is doing it to you once more. *It is not God that is doing this, but ego.* However we project it out and blame God. If we were to look underneath the whole system called ego we would find God's Love for us and our's for Him. This is all we really need, so that it can flow through us making love equitable to and for everybody.

You don't have to sleep with everyone. (Who would want to? You'd get too tired!) You don't have to worry about who you are to sleep with because the Holy Spirit is the great "Check and Balancer". He will make sure that what you are guided to do will be absolutely loving. His guidance will always release guilt by guiding you to do the loving and forgiving thing. Sometimes it may be "yes" and sometimes it may be "no". He will know what is best for everyone involved.

Your goal is to turn all your special relationships over to the Holy Spirit so each can be turned into a holy relationship. This is not only with your wife and husband, but also with your children, your boss, your employees, your nations, your planet and everyone and everything in your life.

#### **Holiness: The Recognition That Your Brother Is Here To Teach You That Both Of You Are God's Child.**

Each person is teaching you patience, tolerance, cooperation, honesty, trust. I must keep going back to this . . . trust!

*"Trust your brother who is one with you."* You don't trust him because you are saying if you were in his position you would do the same thing, and you must protect yourself. This is projection of your belief in attack onto your brother. The Holy Spirit can show us the fairness in our brother, and how to see the beauty in him. His beauty thereby mirrors your own.



*Try this exercise:*

Picture someone in your mind whom you detest. That one will do. You can probably think of many reasons why you should detest him. Now picture someone whom you love, whom you find a joy to be with. That one will do also. Now superimpose the loved brother over the other and let them blend. You see they are the same and you are the same and joined to them in love. Every brother you have IS you.

*Now try this exercise:*

Take that one person you hate and focus on something about him that you like. There has got to be something you like about him. If you can find one thing, then you can find two, and then more. You will now begin to wonder why you disliked him in the first place.

You simply send out your mental messenger who looks for love. The messenger will find the witnesses to your state of mind and will confirm your perception of that person. If you send out a messenger looking for hate in the same person, the witnesses will be found because it is not the person, but, what you are looking for. You are dumping the qualities of hate on him, or recognizing the qualities of love in him. All we have to say is, "I love you." We don't have to be ashamed of that; it reflects our true thoughts and feelings. After all who can truly refuse love?

Remember our purpose here is to allow the Holy Spirit to take the specialness out of our relationships. Whatever the specialness is, you have made it an idol

in place of God. The first Commandment, "Thou shall have no other God's before Me"; should be taken literally. You can only ask for one thing in this illusion: to have your sense of separation from God be corrected. Once you have done this everything else will flow gently into place, there will be nothing else with which you need be concerned. All your relationships will reflect the connection with God and, therefore, all relationships will be holy and healed.

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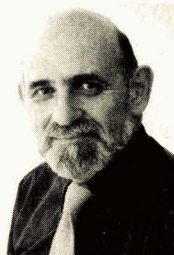
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A self-confessed "Jewish kid off the streets of New York," Paul uses a down-to-earth style of delivery which hits home for each listener. Ambiguous platitudes are not Paul's way. "The time is now, when we must learn in practical specifics, how to listen to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus as our role model and very present elder brother and friend, and see again love and forgiveness in the world."

Paul focuses on the need to form a strong reconnection and bond with the Holy Spirit. Only through this Loving Answer from God, the Father, can each individual find the perfect guidance and advice necessary to find and extend peace throughout one's life.

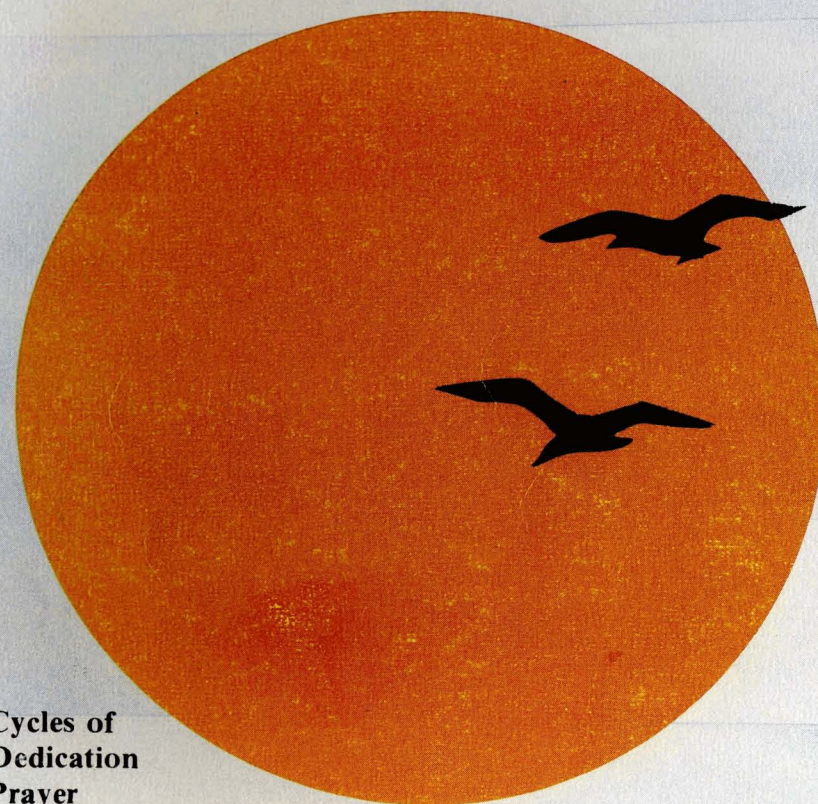
Years of personal study in the areas of psychology, comparative religions, estoterics, parapsychology and "self-help" as well as the past ten years of teaching the discipline called A Course In Miracles has given Paul the vast and varied background necessary to integrate and show the spiritual connection amongst all religions and spiritual disciplines.

As Paul states, "the underlying need of all individuals is to again remember his divine inheritance. Only through the ability to hear the Holy Spirit, that helping Hand given us by God to guide our life, can we each learn to love and forgive. Through our forgiveness of others, as demonstrated perfectly by Jesus, we will remember our loving Father."

For the past five years Paul, with the assistance of Bette Martin, has founded Personal Transformation Counseling based on the concepts presented in A Course In Miracles. A high percentage of students enrolled in the training program are psychologists, ministers, lawyers and lay people of all denominations.

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