

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



LESSON 107

Truth will correct all errors in my mind.

Sarah's Commentary:

This Lesson contrasts truth and illusion and makes it clear that we cannot really know truth in this world, but we can experience its reflection. The Lesson provides clarification on how living in this state of reflection of truth feels compared to staying invested in the world of illusion. We are provided with a very clear perspective on the ego thought system, which is designed to keep us from seeing the guilt in the mind. The guilt in the mind shields us from the truth, and the world shields us from looking at the guilt. The world becomes a screen on which we project the guilt. Yet with courage to really look at our thoughts and take responsibility for them, they can be exposed and given over to be healed.

Jesus encourages us to see that the errors in the mind are not sins. They are simply mistakes to be corrected. Nothing we believe about ourselves can change the fact that truth is still in our minds, simply blocked by our resistance to its acceptance. It means that if we want to heal, we must look at how we misperceive everything. Our misperceptions keep us from experiencing the truth of our being as a Child of Love. Our focus is kept on the body and the world, distracting us from looking within where truth resides.

Jesus tells us that when we withdraw belief from the error, from the illusion, and from this dream, **"They are gone because, without belief, they have no life."** (W.107.1.5) It is like turning on the light in a dark room. The darkness immediately disappears. The only power the illusion has is our belief in it. We make the decision in each moment for the crucifixion or the resurrection, for the ego's thought system or the truth. There is nothing that is too small or insignificant in the mind to which we give our attention. We must be attentive to the slightest nuance of a suffering self, for what we think is what we experience, and it is literally a choice for life or for death. We experience pain, anxiety, and depression, or joy, happiness, and peace accordingly.

We are not meant to suffer. The way out of suffering is to bring all our misperceptions to the truth. Remember that the errors in the mind are not flaws. They are simply errors to be corrected. Vigilance and willingness are required to stay aware of the false beliefs in the mind. We see them when we take responsibility for our projections. We believe that we are bodies, that we can be hurt, that we can be lonely, disconnected, unhappy, suffer and die, and others are responsible for how we feel. This is not the truth. The truth is that we are eternal beings of light and love.

No matter how real and solid anything appears to be in the illusion, it is all nothing and will all disappear. **"From dust to dust they come and go, for only truth remains,"** (W.107.1.7) which means that when all illusions go, the only thing real that remains is the truth of who we are. **"Where truth has entered errors disappear."** (W.107.1.3) Everything we currently see and believe is gone, and only the light remains.

We are asked to look at what this state without illusions would look like. We can perhaps, **"Try to remember when there was a time,--perhaps a minute, maybe even less--when nothing came to interrupt your peace; when you were certain you were loved and safe."** (W.107.2.3) It may have been a time when you were a child, perhaps with someone you really loved, a time in deep meditation, or in nature. Whatever the moment is for you, try to picture it. Then take some time to go back to the feelings you experienced at the time and try to imagine what it would be like to have this moment extend to the end of time. But wait! He tells us it goes far beyond what we can imagine, with the feeling multiplied a hundred times and then a hundred more! Any memory we hold of such a state of peace is only a minute glimmer of what is available to us. It is a state impossible to describe but must be experienced. Our Lessons are taking us to this kind of experience. These glimmers of peace give us a foretaste of what is to come. It is an experience of our true state. It is what the holy instant offers us. It is what Heaven is, and when we experience it, we will **". . . return to the familiar world reluctantly."** (W.107.9.6) It is to be in the world, yet not of it. It is to be in the world while knowing our reality is not here.

"And yet you will be glad to look again upon this world." (W.107.10.1) We are glad because we bring the gifts to the world we have received in the holy instant. Our function is to give what we have received. Thus, our practice periods are not merely for ourselves alone because we are one with our brothers. When our misery and suffering are given over to be healed by the Holy Spirit, we become a demonstration of His love. Now we bring our changed perception to the world and receive the gifts we give. We become a demonstration of the peace and joy in the mind. The same choice we have made is seen to be available to anyone who chooses.

We all have times in our lives when we feel totally assaulted by the world. We feel like victims of people and situations that seem to confront us. Our thoughts about these people and events rob us of peace. These are precisely the thoughts we need to bring for His Correction. They are not the truth, yet we respond to them as if they were. When I feel lonely, I believe what I am feeling, and I try to find ways to alleviate the suffering. However, the thought, "I am lonely," is an illusion. The truth of my Self can never experience loneliness. The false self is responding to something not true. If we observe all our thoughts and emotions from outside this dream, we can see none of them are true. The observer is the one witnessing the dream figure bringing awareness to the false self.

We need not judge any of our experiences, only recognize their lack of reality. All the thoughts and emotions we have, come from one belief, which is that we live in a state of separation. Now we have begun to recognize we have been wrong about ourselves and the world and with it comes a willingness and openness to learn the truth about our Self.

Jesus is not saying we would have no needs as long as we are seemingly in the world. We still experience problems, challenges, and pain that are all part of our experience here; but we are reminded that as we bring our needs, problems, and issues to the truth, the miracle shifts how we see it all. In other words, we are shown another way to see everything. We may still need to address the issues and problems of the world by taking some kind of action, but we can approach any situation with peace and trust that all will be resolved. Through these situations, we learn that the cause of our pain is never external. It is simply a decision that we have made to listen to the wrong teacher in our minds. When we bring our pain to the light of truth, healing becomes available. It is the only way to heal from the difficulties we experience here.

We ask Jesus/the Holy Spirit help to shift our identification from the vulnerable self to the experience of true presence of our Being. To do so requires we bring our weakness, helplessness, emptiness, anger, frustration, and fear to the altar within so we can experience the miracle. We lean on Him for support, and we trust Spirit to remove the illusory demons that seem very real to

us only because we have given them reality. Yes, it does take effort to withdraw belief in the illusion, but we have Mighty Help available to us. We just need to open to this Help with confidence and certainty that the only problem we have is the decision we made to forget who we really are. Since we are the ones who made the decision, the power is within us to change our minds.

This is about confidence. Jesus assures us we can depend on his help in every need and trust that he is always there for us. **"It [truth] stays exactly as it always was, to be depended on in every need, and trusted with a perfect trust in all the seeming difficulties and the doubts that the appearances the world presents engender."** (W.107.4.3) All your doubts and difficulties ". . . will merely blow away, when truth corrects the errors in your mind." (W.107.4.4) His loving Presence desires to reach us in our despair and sadness. **"When truth has come it harbors in its wings the gift of perfect constancy, and love which does not falter in the face of pain, but looks beyond it, steadily and sure."** (W.107.5.1) We can be confident, trusting in Him. It is here that our safety lies, where there is no need for defense because no attack is possible. When the guilt and fear are gone from our minds, we come to know we are invulnerable. Now there is nothing to protect and nothing to defend against.

Truth already belongs to us because it is in us. There is nothing we need to ask for. It is within us and thus always accessible. Jesus says if we truly and sincerely seek it, we will find it. It is not elusive. God is not hiding from us. He is in plain sight. We just need to be confident and trust this is so. **"Truth does not come and go nor shift nor change, in this appearance now and then in that, evading capture and escaping grasp. It does not hide. It stands in open light, in obvious accessibility. It is impossible anyone could seek it truly, and would not succeed."** (W.107.6.1-4) If we think we have truly and sincerely sought the truth and not found it, we must look at how we deceive ourselves. Sometimes, we are more enamored by the steps we take in the journey than we are with the destination which is here NOW. Given a choice of a journey to God or the destination itself, we may still be more inclined to choose the journey. This is because we still want the experience of living in this world and are still choosing to invest in the separate self. We made it, and we think we like what it offers. This is what our resistance to the truth is all about.

I am aware of the resistance in my mind and how much I find distractions to occupy my time. I see my resistance when I forget to do the Lessons. We can't say we want truth more than anything, yet not do what is asked of us in order to reach it. This is all about readiness and willingness to do this practice because discipline is essential. All we need to do is to notice the resistance, rather than fight ourselves and feel guilty. When you find resistance strong, trust that help is available. **"The shaky and unsteady footsteps of illusion are not our approach today."** (W.107.7.4) What do I really want? What is the desire of my heart? How devoted am I to the truth? We can be confident that we cannot fail because what we seek, we already have and are. With motivation and confidence, we can make great strides today. When we ask **"Him Who goes with you upon this undertaking,"** (W.107.8.1) we are asking for our Guide to go with us into the day. We set the goal and decide on the kind of day we want and recognize that the practice of the Lesson will support our goal. (T.30)

When we call on the Holy Spirit, we are really connecting to the Christ Self, which is our unalterable, unchangeable reality. All my moods, my excitement, my boredom, my anger, my impatience, and my total identity as a body, as Sarah, as a woman, a mother, a friend, a writer, a cook, a partner, a teacher, offer nothing but vulnerability, changeability, uncertainty, and ultimately death. When I think of my imperfection, it shows me I am thinking of myself in illusory terms. I am identifying with the ego. The ego is not what I am. This false identity is what needs to be brought to the truth. The presence of the Holy Spirit is in my mind and is my reality.

The way to peace is so simple it is bound to be overlooked when we experience suffering. All we need to do is keep our focus on this teaching; it is not difficult or ambiguous unless we want it to be so. Step back and let Him lead the way in each moment, with each thought and action, and when you do, happiness and peace of mind are assured.

When we merge with Self, it is indeed difficult to return to the world. A part of us will be reluctant because the experience of truth is so deep, so still, so powerful and unlimited. By contrast, being in the world of limitation feels very constricted. Yet we are told that we still do have an important function in the world because we bring the promise of this unchangeable truth back with us. We bring certainty and safety, knowing, as Jesus did, the certainty of resurrection. Ultimately, he is not telling us to give up our function in the world, but only to bring him with us. We are integrating the truth in our minds with our function in the world.

We are asked to recognize our lives were never really happy before we undertook this spiritual journey. This was our motivation to start on this journey in the first place. We felt like victims of the world. Now we are undergoing a change. We witness more peace and contentment in our lives as we apply the Lessons to the events of the day. Thus, we demonstrate that we are not the victims of external events and the things of the world no longer disrupt us to the same extent. We become examples of peace and happiness in this world, with our external lives reflecting the internal changes.

Love and blessings, Sarah Huemmert
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