

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



Lesson 353

**My eyes, my tongue, my hands, my feet today
Have but one purpose—to be given Christ
To use to bless the world with miracles.**

Sarah's Commentary:

Our bodies, which were made by the ego, can be given over to the Holy Spirit for His holy purpose to bless the world with miracles. We were talking over breakfast this morning about how much time we spend focusing on what is going on in the world that we don't like, whether gossiping about what others are doing, debating world issues, or lamenting the state of things. In the psychological system known as *transactional analysis*, this type of activity is labeled as the game of "ain't it awful," and we can spend a big part of our lives engaged in it. We seem to hold opinions about everything coming from the "I know mind." Yet our time, when used for the purpose of waking up to who we really are, is spent in communion with the Divine. ***"Father, I give all that is mine today to Christ, to use in any way that best will serve the purpose that I share with Him."*** (W.353.1.1)

What this means is that we must stay vigilant, witnessing our thoughts and opinions so the judgments, which keep us invested in the illusion, can be given to the Holy Spirit to be released. The only valuable purpose for time is forgiveness. To know what we need to let go of, we must become aware of the judgments we are making and give them over to the Holy Spirit. When we turn to the Holy Spirit we humbly give up our ideas and increasingly see we truly don't know anything. We become an example for others that there is always another choice available in the mind than to look with judgment. Yes, judgments will come up, but we don't have to give them attention. We can remember to laugh at the idea that there is any reality in this world. The only problem we have is when we take everything seriously.

Peace can only be extended through us when we experience it within. There is nothing we need to do for this peace. It is already what is given us in our creation. When we don't experience it, we are blocking it with our own thoughts and ideas. It is not dependent on anything external, or on anything happening, or not happening. We may have a flat tire, lose our wallet, burn the cake, or break a leg, but we can still choose peace. If the mind is disturbed by any situation or event, it is an opportunity for healing. Watching our thoughts, without judging ourselves, is to watch the movie of our lives as we sit with Jesus in the theater, observing the play. Non-judgmental awareness starts the transformation process. It allows us to observe our pattern of thinking and our behaviors from a neutral place, and that is a healing process in itself. If we get triggered by something, it does not make us wrong. It means there is some gold to be mined in seeing what we are defending. All we need to do is be willing to look.

When we willingly bring the darkness in the mind to the light, the Holy Spirit shines away the blocks to the awareness of the presence of love in us. Rather than lament our perceived problems, we can choose to see every issue as another opportunity for healing. Purpose answers the question, "What is it for?" Will we use this situation for our needs, our specialness, to hold grievances, to attack, to win, and to be right; or will we release the blocks to love through forgiveness? It is up to us to choose.

Everything we have made brings us pain. When we think of our lives, they are constantly challenged by daily demands that we place on ourselves, which can never be perfectly met. We live with limitation, loss, demands, expectations, and disappointments, which are all based on what we value. When we relinquish our investment in our specialness, we come to know our Identity as we were created. Specialness is what we have made of ourselves. It is the state of separation we chose in order to maintain our individuality.

Jesus says, **"Your mind will elect to join with mine, and together we are invincible."** (T.4.IV.11.5) (ACIM OE T.4.V.67) When we do the healing in relation to some difficulty with another, a shift happens energetically in the relationship, even when the other person seems not to be involved. It thus only takes one of us to heal any relationship. We share the same purpose and the same Christ Self. There is only One Mind. The power of the miracle, working in any situation, brings this reality to awareness. The other person in the relationship will accept the gift of freedom offered through our healing when they are ready, but the gift that has been given has been received by some part of the mind the moment it is given.

In the Manual for Teachers, Jesus asks us if we still select some aspects of our lives for healing while keeping others apart. He says: **"The extent of the teacher of God's faithfulness is the measure of his advancement in the curriculum. Does he still select some aspects of his life to bring to his learning, while keeping others apart? If so, his advancement is limited, and his trust not yet firmly established."** (M.4.IX.1.1-3) When we are faithful to the goal of healing, we live in a state of trust. **"Generally, his faithfulness begins by resting on just some problems,"** (M.4.IX.1.5) while we keep others for ourselves. **"To give up all problems to one Answer is to reverse the thinking of the world entirely. And that alone is faithfulness."** (M.4.IX.1.6-7) There are still things we figure we can manage on our own and do not need to stop and ask for His help. We are still just taking small steps in this process of turning inward for guidance in everything. Jesus assures us that each of the steps we take is a worthwhile achievement in our journey to faithfulness and our goal of peace. There is only one worthwhile function for the body. It is to let God's Voice speak through it.

When we bring faithfulness to our lives, Jesus says that we exhibit all the other attributes of God's Teachers, which are trust, honesty, tolerance, gentleness, joy, defenselessness, generosity, patience, and open-mindedness. Our only purpose here is to **"bless the world with miracles"** (W.353) by giving **"all that is mine today to Christ."** (W.353.1.1) It is based on a willingness to be vulnerable. It requires honest self-reflection. It requires giving up defenses—the façade we hide behind in our attempt to maintain the false self. We are called to notice when we are acting out an old pattern. I recently had an incident where a friend became upset with something I said. I felt hurt and unjustly accused. I could not shake the feeling and wondered why such a small incident was so upsetting to me. It was not until I was willing to look more deeply that I remembered a similar feeling of victimhood from the past. I carried a mantra of,

"No one understands me." I felt sorry for myself and not only felt misunderstood, but unfairly treated. I was willing to see that this pattern did not serve me, but kept me in despair. My deep hurt had nothing to do with the current incident. A healed mind would not be upset by what others are thinking or saying.

When ***"I give all that is mine today to Christ, to use in any way that best will serve the purpose that I share with Him,"*** (W.353.1.1) I learn that nothing is for me alone. When we reach this place in our learning, Jesus says that our journey here is almost over. I know how much I still withhold from the Holy Spirit to be used for my own purposes. I also know that each time I turn to Him, I make progress. I am aware that so much more darkness has come to light for me as I have willingly looked at those places in my mind that I had previously chosen to overlook, to cover over with niceties, or to hide from myself. I no longer feel the same need to defend and protect my hateful, judgmental thoughts by diminishing them as minor irritations. I can look at it all much more dispassionately and see the pockets of hate and judgment. The Holy Spirit never judges us, so it is always safe to look with Him.

Jesus tells us that he does not ask for our adoration of him. He only wants us to bring our pain, our suffering, and our hurts to him. He knows that bringing awareness to these places in us, which we defend so vigorously, is how we achieve healing. Thus, we need to look at our hate, our specialness, our judgments, our guilt, our shame, and the anger within the mind, and not condemn and judge ourselves, but simply observe. In quantum physics, we are told that the observer changes the observed just by witnessing it. That is all we need to do. Our part is simply to notice our patterns and observe them with compassion. If we really want to heal, we need to welcome everything that shows up in the mind and bring it all to awareness while seeing its unreality.

We sometimes get discouraged when the darkness of the ego comes to awareness, yet it is there because we are ready to see it. We have asked for healing. Everything that needs to be healed will come to our attention as we are ready to see it. The more we welcome it, the easier the process becomes.

Using our bodies and our resources to bring miracles is the true purpose of our lives. It is the only thing that will make us happy. Nothing else. We give up trying to get and instead we look to see where we can give. We have no identity other than our Identity in Christ. We have no role other than to join with Jesus to bless the world with miracles. We experience the joy of giving with no expectation but also with no sense of sacrifice; and then our lives become increasingly peaceful and joyous, as judgment, guilt, and fear fall away. We now have a foundation and no longer feel that we are victims of changing circumstances and unexpected events as our confidence, trust, and faith grow. This is about letting go, breathing deeply, and allowing the stress of trying so hard to be released.

Jesus talks of the importance of the purpose we share with him. As we join in purpose in this classroom with Jesus, we are invited to ask continuously: **"What would You have me do? Where would You have me go? What would You have me say, and to whom?"** (W.72.9.3-5) When the blocks are cleared away, everything we do comes from love. It is a natural response and does not require a lot of soul searching but comes naturally. As we come to know our Identity, we understand that there is no sacrifice, since we only serve our One Self. Thus, our true Will, joined with God, is set free.

I end on a note of gratitude for the help and support on this journey. I thank you for your part in my journey and am forever grateful we are all going home together, supporting each other every step of the way as we let Him use our eyes, our tongue, our hands, and our feet today for just one purpose.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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