

ACIM Edmonton - Sarah's Reflections



LESSON 97 **I am Spirit.**

Sarah's Commentary:

"I am Spirit." (W.97) This statement is totally uncompromising! It flatly states the truth of who we are: not a body, not a personality, none of the self-concepts we hold, only Spirit. That is what I am. That is the only truth. When this Lesson says that just practicing this truth **"will bring your mind from conflict to the quiet fields of peace,"** (W.97.1.4) it becomes very compelling. Who of us is not motivated to find such quiet fields of peace? Who of us is not motivated to release the constant conflict of competing ego goals and the pain and uncertainty of our lives? Our reality is only Spirit. We are not a 'body/mind,' as is so often heard in the world today in new age circles. We can't be both because these two different orders of reality are completely irreconcilable.

Any worry, annoyance, expectation, or anxiety we have is a temptation to believe we are other than Spirit. This is because we hold thoughts about ourselves that are not true and we believe these thoughts. When we notice a false belief in the mind, it is an opportunity to ask for help and receive the miracle. The miracle is outside of time and space and reflects the love in our right minds. To receive it, we must be willing to see that we have been wrong about ourselves. Let us be willing today to surrender our mistaken perceptions and false beliefs to the truth so the Holy Spirit can reinterpret them for us.

This process requires our decision to reach out for His help. His help will not be imposed on us. The love of our elder brother Jesus waits patiently for our decision to bring to the light the darkness that we are tenaciously holding in the mind. He loves us too much to impose himself on us. He reminds us that we made the fear, and it is up to us to decide when we are ready to let it go. Our will is as strong as his. It is up to us to choose when we are ready to give up our way and ask for his help. Only then can we access the miracle. Only when we make space for it can grace be brought to every problem we think we have. The light has come, but we will stay in darkness until we accept responsibility for our part and ask for help to release the blocks we hold before the light. Ask yourself, who is it that is holding onto these blocks? These blocks are all our misperceptions of ourselves for which we blame others.

There is no conflict in Spirit. There are not two selves in conflict. Spirit is One. The memory of the Self we are comes with forgiveness. The miracle is revealed when our grievances are brought to awareness. We have resistance to healing because we still defend the point of view taken by the separate self. It takes discipline and willingness to admit that we are wrong about everything. We resist this idea because we still value our specialness and individuality.

Why is it that I experience myself as a body, a personality, and a self that has needs, lacks, and problems if this is all a dream and not who I am? I am choosing to identify with the false self, an aspect of the wrong mind that seemed to split off from Heaven. Jesus reminds us it is impossible

to be split from our Father. **"We state again the truth about your Self, the holy Son of God Who rests in you, whose mind has been restored to sanity. You are the Spirit lovingly endowed with all your Father's Love and peace and joy."** (W.97.2.1-2) We have not split off from our reality as Spirit. We only seemed to leave the part of the mind that knows itself. We wandered off into this far country of time and space, just like the Prodigal Son, where we feel lost, alone, lacking and separate; but this is no more real than if I am having a dream where I imagine myself to be someone I am not. In this dream, I seem to have taken on a character, no different than someone in a play, but I have forgotten I am in a play and believe I am now the character in the role. Yes, it all seems very real, but it is just thoughts held in the mind that I have come to believe are the truth. What if all my beliefs about myself were just made-up? What if I give up all those beliefs and am willing to see everything from a different perspective—from above the battleground?

I can only do that if I stop expending my energy on denying the truth. I deny the truth each time I see anyone responsible for taking my joy and peace from me. No one can take our peace unless we willingly give them that power to do so. In other words, it is my decision to throw away my peace. The ego wants to blame others because in that way someone else is guilty for causing our pain and that allows us to wear the face of innocence and not be responsible for the guilt in the mind. It is how we maintain our false innocence at their expense. It is by projecting the guilt in our minds on others. We prefer to see it in them rather than in ourselves. This is precisely how we keep the cycle of guilt and fear going and keep ourselves bound to the prison of our own self-imposed condition.

The Lesson makes it very clear that this is a world of misery and suffering, and surely we can attest to that from our own experience. We live in a state of panic, underlying anxiety, and lack almost all the time. Yes, it seems there are periods of respite when we distract ourselves and find friends, allies, and special love partners to guard us against this state; but the panic and anxiety quickly return in our nightmares and we feel sad, sick, and alone. Now we are given an answer that heals this state of mind. The miracle is available when we are ready to accept it. However, we can be very stubborn and resistant. We expend a lot of energy denying the truth. Why? We deny truth because we still give value to our existence, as a separate individual.

We are not both Spirit and body, nor are we love and hate. These are states that can't be woven together into a semblance of unity. When we willingly release our judgments and step into the light, we experience the love, joy, and peace that are our inheritance. There is a place in all of us where the Holy Son of God rests, (W.97.2.1) and where sanity resides. Our reality is only Spirit. We are lovingly endowed with all of our Father's love and peace and joy. We are being called to this experience. We can step aside from whatever storms are brewing in our lives and, just for a moment, take in the joy of our Being. It is truly a beautiful and uplifting thought for today to accept the complete truth of what we are if only for a holy instant.

Take time today to pause and step away from your story, from your concerns, from your hopes and dreams and feel the gratitude that comes from these moments of respite from the world. Yes, we do have things to attend to in the world, but we can address them with an attitude of peace and trust that comes with the miracle, rather than relying on our puny, limited resources. When fear has been brought to love, it is dissolved and truth can reign. Our only function here is to bring awareness to our dark thoughts and underlying beliefs and be willing to let them go.

This world is not our reality. It is just a temporary experience, which can be used by the Holy Spirit for healing if we allow Him to work with us and teach us how to forgive. Imagine how the world would look to you if you recognized that you are only here for one purpose, which is to

experience love and blessings in every moment. Imagine how it would look if everyone you encounter today were there for the purpose of reminding you of your holiness and theirs. Even those who irritate and upset you are helping to bring to the forefront of your awareness what is still unhealed in your mind. We are only here to bless. In releasing grievances, we know nothing has happened because we truly can't suffer any loss or pain. It is impossible if our reality is only Spirit.

We have been lost in this dream for a long, long time, but now we are listening to the Holy Spirit, Who has always been there and has never stopped talking to us. We have just not been listening. Today, we allow His loving presence to use everything we have made for our awakening. We work with Him today by being reminded of the truth that we are nothing but Spirit. When we are tempted to get upset, we ask for help to look at every situation from above the battleground and outside time and space, where we step aside from the ego. We are willing to see that we have been wrong about the identity we have made. **"Each time you practice, awareness is brought a little nearer at least; sometimes a thousand years or more are saved."** (W.97.3.2)

What this suggests to me is that we apparently have been at this for a long, long time. This need not be a discouraging thought because we can wake up at any moment. It is a matter of willingness. Jesus continually tells us that we should be completely unconcerned about time. After all, time is just an illusion, but time can be used for our benefit. That is its purpose when given to the Holy Spirit for healing and forgiveness.

This Lesson affirms that even the few minutes we give to this practice are multiplied over and over. We have no idea of the miracles that spring forth from our minds to bring salvation to the world as we do this practice. **"He will offer all His strength to every little effort that you make."** (W.97.4.3) It seems so little is being asked of us for so much. We receive the gift, and as we receive it, we give it to the world. What seems to us a small expression of forgiveness apparently has a huge impact. This is because there is just one mind, and as our mind is brought to peace so is the One Mind of the SonShip.

"You are the Spirit in whose mind abides the miracle in which all time stands still; the miracle in which a minute spent in using these ideas becomes a time that has no limit and has no end." (W.97.4.1) We bring our judgments and grievances to the Holy Spirit to be healed. This is a choice for the miracle, which is a choice made outside of the dream. It is a moment of timelessness felt in time.

Can you imagine the power there is in our practice? **"The Holy Spirit will be glad to take five minutes of each hour from your hands, and carry them around this aching world where pain and misery appear to rule."** (W.97.5.1) Just think of the contribution we can make to the Sonship by giving five minutes to Him every hour, using this time to release the blocks by bringing them to the Holy Spirit. So many people look for ways they can contribute to the world, yet they feel hopeless in their efforts to make a difference. Here we are told that the Holy Spirit **"will not overlook one open mind that will accept the healing gifts they bring, and He will lay them everywhere He knows they will be welcome."** (W.97.5.2) Our contribution is to do our own healing, and when these gifts are accepted by anyone anywhere, they are increased in their healing power.

This is an amazing thought! A moment doing our practice can stop a murder, an assault on someone, or a theft from happening. It seems inconceivable to me that my small contribution through my commitment to my own awakening can bring such power to the healing of the world. When I find more important things to do than to give my five minutes each hour, what am I

saying? Am I saying that I don't believe this? Am I saying that my specialness and individuality take priority? Am I saying that I am fearful and resistant to the truth? Becoming aware of our resistance, our priorities in this world, and our idols, can all be helpful in our forgiveness practice. Everything we have made can be given over to truth. Each practice period in which we engage is like the firefly that shines a tiny gleam of light and through the Holy Spirit this gleam is given the radiance of the sun. **"And when it is returned to you, it will surpass in might the little gift you gave as much as does the radiance of the sun outshine the tiny gleam a firefly makes an uncertain moment and goes out. The steady brilliance of this light remains and leads you out of darkness, nor will you be able to forget the way again."** (W.97.6.2-3)

We are asked to approach this day and this practice with hopefulness and happiness and to give our time gladly as we listen for His assurance that this is all true. We can only hear that assurance when we stop listening to the perspectives of the ego. It will keep talking, but we don't have to give it any attention. We are Spirit. We need to tell ourselves this often today. Every time we feel any kind of pain, attack, distress, fatigue, anger, frustration, hunger, or need, we can choose against these distractions. We do not deny what we are experiencing, but we can choose to see its unreality and remind ourselves of the truth that we are Spirit.

The song coming to my mind is, "I believe I can fly. I believe I can touch the sky." Dance today. Sing today. Fly today. You are Spirit. I am Spirit. As One Spirit, joined with the Holy Spirit, all things are possible. Have a magnificent, grand, and happy day, practicing the thought: **"Spirit am I, a holy Son of God, free of all limits, safe and healed and whole, free to forgive, and free to save the world."** (W.97.7.2) With each practice period, we bring this reality closer to our awareness. We bring reinforcement to our minds that we can't be the split identity that we currently think we are. He gives us lots of incentive in this Lesson to do the practice.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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