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The HOLY ENCOUNTER



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019
A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

...when you meet anyone, remember
it is a holy encounter.



Student of the Month

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

Have you noticed how much stuff we seem to collect? It is hard to sort through things and decide what to discard and what to keep. But, at some point we have to do it! In doing this tedious but necessary process, I came across a box of our son Jeff's old school things – things he had accumulated over the years. One item was an award for "Student to the Month." The note read: He's a very self-motivated learner. He asks questions, helps others, and frequently communicates with me when he needs help."

That note took me back. I remembered when he brought that note home and how proud he was to wear on his jacket the little button he received for this acknowledgment. Of course we were thrilled for him, as well.

This walk down memory lane got me thinking about how the comments in Jeff's note seemed to be

exactly what we all need to be doing to succeed in our spiritual growth. It's also what *A Course in Miracles* is asking us to do to learn this course.

To succeed in school, kids are asked to be self-motivated learners, and the Course says, WE must want a better way. Students are told to ask questions when they don't understand, and in the Course we are asked

to question every value we hold dear to see if it is worthy of a holy child of God. A good student helps others, and in the Course we are told salvation is a collaborative venture –



"...let's investigate a little further what the Course is asking of us to complete our real education, and learn how we can become God's 'student of the month!'"

we can't awaken alone. Finally, students need to communicate to their teachers when they need help. As Course students we are told to turn to God's guidance continuously, because we clearly need help.

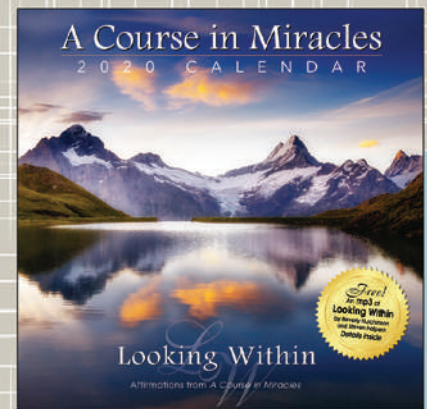
Just because some of us may have ended our formal "worldly" education doesn't mean our spiritual education has ceased. We know how important it is to continue to stimulate our brains, so let's investigate a little further what the Course is asking of us to complete our real education, and learn how we can become God's "student of the month!"

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Beverly is the co-founder and president of MDC, one of the longest running organizations based on *A Course in Miracles*. As a student, lecturer and author on the Course since 1977, her recorded weekly commentaries on Course principles have become a wonderful source of inspiration and study for many around the world. Receive a FREE recording by contacting MDC.

A Course in Miracles

2020 WALL CALENDAR



Inspirational quotes from the renowned spiritual teachings of *A Course in Miracles* unite with the beauty of nature to create a year of peace and healing.



See page 15
for details

What's Happening...with the Course and the Center

For more information go to
www.miraclecenter.org or call 714-632-9005

● **Google searches for "A Course in Miracles"** surged after the first Democratic Presidential debate appearance by **Marianne Williamson** in June. Queries hit a peak on

I really felt I failed was the summer of 1992 when my second marriage fell apart. It was horrible. I reached out to Marianne Williamson and she turned me on to *A Course in Miracles* and I did it... twice. I feel a lot better now!"

support and encouragement of others ... what if we realized that we were accountable to each other ... what if we realized we truly were entitled to the peace that we are searching for? Affirm with us that the peace of God is your one goal by joining the **Pledge for Peace** and adding your placemark on our world map. You can find it on our **website** under "**Services.**" It just takes an instant (a holy instant) to do it! Join us today.

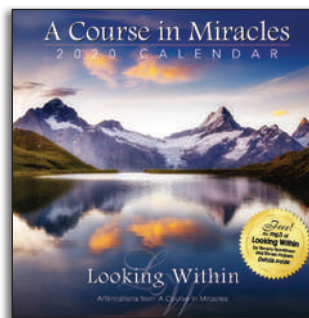
● **Wristband Reminders** - "I called in to order more of the ACIM wristbands because the ones I had wore out from use! **God goes with me wherever I go and I am sustained by the Love of God** are the two I rely on most to get me through my somewhat difficult work week," said Leroy Smith in Hawaii. We agree with Leroy! These wristbands are such great

June 28th and then again on July 6th when an article in the New York Times entitled, "**The Curious Mystical Text Behind Marianne Williamson's Presidential Bid**" was published. After the second Democratic Presidential debate, Marianne was the most Googled candidate in 49 of the 50 states. Besides the United States, the countries with the most searches were Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

● **What, then, is "A Course in Miracles?"** - With the current rise in interest in the Course, we thought our readers would enjoy a fascinating article we ran by **Roger Walsh** back in 2014. Dr. Walsh is professor of psychiatry, philosophy, and anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. In his article he poses the question, what is *A Course in Miracles* and how does it relate to the time-honored great spiritual traditions? You can find this fascinating article and many others in our Blog. A link to the blog can be found in the menu bar on our website.

● **Harry Hamlin and Overcoming Failure** - In a recent article on Thrive Global, actor Harry Hamlin credited *A Course in Miracles* as helping him recover from failure saying, "The last time

● **Our 2020 A Course in Miracles Wall Calendar** - is now available to give and receive as the perfect holiday gift! Featuring stunning full color photos along with inspiring quotes from the Course for each month, this calendar is sure to keep the Course's message of peace and healing forefront in your mind all year long. It's a meaningful gift you can give to all your family and friends – and **the more calendars you purchase, the lower the price!** See page 15 for details.



● **We are delighted** to announce that our next seminar on the Course, "**The Fundamentals of Forgiveness**" by Beverly McNeff, will take place on **January 18, 2020**. You may attend in person or via live stream. Either way, you will be able to interact during the seminar and have access to all materials and recorded sessions after the event. As one attendee of our last seminar said, "Beverly's always-understandable explanations are invaluable. I had wandered from the Course and this seminar brought me back!" You can find all the details on page 3.

● **Take the Peace Pledge!** - In our hectic lives, we want peace; we want to know God's will and guidance for us, but we are just so busy, or we forget, or we just have too much else to do today. But what if we had the

reminders of the truth. Each is a unique color with a unique quote. We hope you will order one or all eighteen as a set and join in our awakening! To see the collection, **visit our online store** or give us a call.

● **Encircled by Miracles** - This high-quality Miracle Mug, encircled with fifteen of our favorite inspirational quotes from *A Course in Miracles*, was exclusively designed and created by your Miracle Distribution Center family. Our hope is that each quote will bless you as you pour your first cup of coffee into the mug in the morning until you sip your last cup of tea at night. The



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Fundamentals of Forgiveness



Next in our Series of Seminars
to Deepen Your Understanding
of **A Course in Miracles**

with

**Beverly
Hutchinson McNeff**

Beverly brings her 42 years of
Course study to this seminar
to explore the powerful and
practical steps to forgiveness
that the Course offers all of us.



Saturday, January 18, 2020

2 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

in Person

*"I'm so glad I came.
Beverly's always -
understandable
explanations are
invaluable. I had
wandered from the
Course and this
seminar brought me back!"*



via Live Stream



*"I loved every bit of the
Live Stream seminar. The
powerful messages I will
incorporate into my daily
life. Beverly, thank you for
your insights, grace,
and peace."*

**Either way you participate, you will be able
to interact during the seminar and have
access to all materials and recorded
sessions after the event.**

9am - 4:30pm • Cost \$59

To attend in person, the seminar will be held at:
Miracle Distribution Center 3947 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim

for reservations call **800-359-ACIM (2246)**

or online: **www.miraclecenter.org**

A *Course in Miracles* advises us in the text section which ushers in the New Year that it is now time for us to take our place in the Great Awakening. It counsels us to "make this year different by making it all the same." I think we all yearn to be more consistent with our choices for peace, but we all know the feeling of not being very successful in our attempts. We finish a workbook lesson, feel the peace of God, and then the phone rings or we get behind the wheel and all the success of a moment before seems to disappear in rage and anger.

But, it doesn't have to be that way. Nothing is lost by our moments of forgetting, if we are willing to start again. I know this thought resonates with your heart, as it does mine, for we all want to strive toward a more consistent way to live instead of one minute at peace and the next in conflict.

So if you are ready, let's start again to awaken to the lasting peace that is within us now. I hope you will join me for this day-long seminar as we delve into the Answer that God has given us through the power of forgiveness. For many, forgiveness seems almost impossible in this world, yet we are assured that forgiveness is not only possible, but it is the only way to heal this impossible world. As the Course tells us, "Forgiveness is the end of dreams, because it is a dream of waking." Let's wake up together!

Let's take these steps together so you may "let all your relationships be made holy for you. This is our will. Amen."

Change Your Mind Change Your Life

The Ego Voice Versus the Voice of God

by Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. and Diane V. Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D.



In the introduction to *A Course in Miracles*, there is one sentence that really tells what the Course is all about. This first thought we are presented with is: “Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God.”

As we understand this lesson, it means only God’s Love is real. It means God’s Love does not change. It is like the Course’s definition of truth, which is also something that never changes.

The ego voice is quite different from the Voice of God. The ego voice believes it is God. It believes that if you are attacked or hurt by something or someone, the best thing you can do is attack or hurt back.

When we are involved in a political race, far too often the ego’s voice says to us, “Attack the other person.” It says, “Lie about what you want to say.” It says, “Be interested only in your own self interest.” The ego voice does not believe in compassion or kindness or love of any kind. It encourages us not only to attack at the personal level, but on a global scale, urging people to go to war with entire countries. Again, we like to point out this is entirely different than the Voice of God, which is always inclusive, always kind, never attacking, and always compassionate.

The ego voice believes we are separate from one another. The Voice of God believes we are all connected in Spirit as One. The Voice of God speaks of unity, not separation. The fearful ego voice believes we are born only to die, whereas the Holy Voice of God believes we are always one with each other with no separation, and that the key to happiness is forgiveness. The ego voice does not believe in forgiveness; it believes in retaliation.

During political elections, we see many candidates who continue to attack each other from the place of their fearful ego voices, promoting conflict, degradation, and being a fault finder. It is easy to fall into joining them instead of seeing personal attacks as originating from their place of fear instead of love.

For the last four decades, we have always begun our days by asking the Voice of God to help us make decisions based on love instead of decisions based on fear. We ask that we remember that all of our perceptions first originate within our own



“The ego voice believes we are separate from one another. The Voice of God believes we are all connected in Spirit as One.”

belief systems and filter through all of our past experiences, both positive and negative. That means what we

see and experience is never really “true,” just perceptual. That is the last thing the ego wants to hear because it always wants to convince us we are right and others are wrong. This is the origin of conflict in both our inner as well as our outer world.

The Voice of God believes there is only One Truth, and that Truth is formless, timeless, and ageless, and knows that these bodies are neither our true identity nor our true reality, because there is no death.

One of the lessons in the Course reads, “I am not a body. I am free. For I am still as God created me.” (W-201-220) This means life is eternal and that one of the gifts God has given us is happiness, peace, and joy beyond what the ego can even begin to comprehend, and reminds us this instant is the only time there is.

The ego voice believes in its own reality of

calendars, and things that are opposing like good and bad, or war and peace. It believes there are things that are impossible, whereas the Voice of God believes nothing is impossible and that the purpose of life is to be kind, gentle, and loving to everyone, no matter what their behavior or appearance.

A quiet mind allows us to listen to the Inner Voice, but many of us get distracted by the noise we hear in the world and what we see with our physical eyes. For example, it is easy to believe it is impossible to live in a world without enemies, but the Voice of God tells us there are no enemies.

Jesus, who dictated *A Course in Miracles* to Helen Schucman, believes it is possible to love everyone, no matter what their behavior, appearance, or circumstances are.

Whereas the ego voice gives us any excuse to be a fault finder and convinces us that anger will get us what we want, the Course tells us we are all innocent and, therefore, deserving of love.

The Course believes we are all the light of the world and that part of our purpose in

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Nightingale
Conant

The ULTIMATE
Gerald Jampolsky and
Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky
LIBRARY

Visit
<https://tinyurl.com/y55dvhnR>

Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. and Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D., international lecturers and bestselling authors, share their insights and experiences in applying the principles of *A Course in Miracles* in our world. Diane’s therapeutic counseling practice specializes in applying ACIM to all aspects and situations in life. Their books are available from the Center at www.miraclecenter.org



Recognizing Spirit

Where Is the Call for Love in the Story?

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

As of late, several people have shared with me how they are feeling a need to limit how much exposure they have to the news and have asked me what I do. I have a mindful recipe that I do my best to practice: “One part media input to ten parts loving kindness.” What this means for me is that, for every one minute I watch or read media, I spend ten in either extending love, being contemplative, and/or being in nature, recharging, centering, and quieting myself. In this way, I believe I am more able to observe the news of the world without being consumed by it. I become less reactive and more reflective, less judgmental and more respectful. This, in turn, contributes to reducing fear and negative emotion, both in my mind and in the world.

Let me ask you this: what do hate, attack, mistakes, sin, guilt, and grandiosity have in common? From the perspective of *A Course in Miracles*, the answer is that they all are expressions of fear and are a call for help, which is actually a call for love. The Course explains,

“If only attack produces fear, and if you see attack as the call for help that it is, the unreality of fear must dawn on you. For fear is a call for love, in unconscious recognition of what has been denied.” (T-12.I.8:12)

In other words, the Course explains that all situations and behavior we witness in the world are either an expression of love or a call for love. To some, this may seem overly simplistic, wrong, or even dangerous. But, think deeply and practically about what it means if the Course is correct, which I believe it is. It is the beginning of being led by Holy Spirit to forgive ourselves and others and to discover an expanded awareness of love where we once saw only multiple forms of attack.

In a time of being bombarded with ever-changing news in the world and endless information from smart phones, it is essential

to devote time to quiet contemplation and remembrance of truth beneath and beyond the increasingly complicated and conflicted world. There is much talk about fake news vs. real news. My approach to all news (fake or real) is the same because extending love is a decisive and positive action regardless of the validity or origins of the story told. In other words, if you respond to any story, real or fake, with hate, anger, or fear you are contributing to a dangerous



compassion, you are creating a healed world. I am not suggesting that telling and reporting the truth is not of value, but I am saying that there is a higher truth or reality that is beyond any story – Love. It is this higher truth that I try and listen to beyond the story and spin. It is a rising above the battleground, a rising above the belief that we or any being in this world are separate from the whole. This quote from *A Course in Miracles* is a reminder to me of where to direct my mind:

“The senselessness of conquest is quite apparent from the quiet sphere above the battleground.” (T-23.IV.9:5)

A method that helps me do this is to view every story told – be it from a friend or a media source – as asking me one – and only one – question: *Where is the call for love in this story?* Through asking this question, I recognize that within every communication and every story there is either an extending love or a request for love. Because human

behavior can be horrid, calls for love or help can be quite challenging to see on the surface, so we need to look beyond what we disagree with, feel is an attack, or don’t like. This takes practice and discipline, but, once I see that every story is either a call for love or an extension of love, my response will be a helpful one, including to my own experience of peace and centeredness.

A useful exercise I do these days is I imagine at the end of every newscast or article there is a supportive discussion

that explores this one question, “Where is the call for love in the stories reported?” It is a reminder to me that rising above the battleground is my purpose and hearing the call for love is my path home. I then remind myself the only way I will be able to do this is by asking the Holy Spirit for help. To do so I practice this passage from the Course:

“You can do much on behalf of your own healing and that of others if, in a situation calling for help, you think of it this way:

*I am here only to be truly helpful.
I am here to represent Him Who sent me.
I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do, because He Who sent me will direct me.
I am content to be wherever He wishes, knowing He goes there with me.
I will be healed as I let Him teach me to heal.”* (T-2.V.18)

The Healing Power of Authenticity

Equally crucial to listening for the call for love and asking for help is authenticity. Gaining awareness of our thoughts, actions, and the effects of these, without the intention of blame or guilt, is essential in any true path toward healing and resolution. A Course

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Dr. Lee Jampolsky is the founder of Inspirational Psychology and the author of ten books in fourteen languages. For free articles and free online courses visit www.drleejampolsky.com. He is a retired psychologist and currently offers online spiritual mentoring and coaching. He can be reached at lee@drleejampolsky.com



A Case for Karma

by Joseph Miller

A student in our *A Course in Miracles* study group made a passing comment about karma that was important. We were discussing the power of “now,” the possibility of liberating the mind from the burdens of the past in the present moment, and thus releasing the future. The student contrasted this notion with the doctrine of karma, which seems to hold a person hostage to her past actions. I think this observation is correct, if we regard karma by the shallow connotations usually associated with it. That is, we tend to think of karma as a “gotcha” force, or a vengeful cosmic accountant who will always hound you to collect debt – and shut off your utilities when you don’t pay up!

However, the best teachings I have come across on the subject emphasize (a) that karma is not an external agent, and (b) has nothing to do with punishment or vengeance. Karma is simply an inherent tendency in the universe and in our minds to restore equilibrium. The word literally means “action” and implies the law of cause and effect which re-balances temporary imbalance. Karma is an aspect of cosmic integrity.

I once heard a popular *A Course in Miracles* lecturer pronounce that Buddha came to teach the law of karma, but Jesus came to abolish it through forgiveness. Now, I tend to believe that enlightened beings are on the same team, and that the Universal Course expresses the same fundamental verities across time and cultures. It is hard for me to accept that Buddha’s teaching about Moral Law in India would be turned on its head in Palestine only 500 years later. Here are a few reasons why I don’t think Jesus came to abolish karma:

First of all, there is this overt statement by Jesus: “If I intervened between your thoughts and their results, I would be tampering with a basic law of cause and effect; the most fundamental law there is.” (T-2.VII.1:4) And near the beginning of the section on “Trust” in the Manual for Teachers there is another reference to cause and effect: “Perception is the result of learning. In fact,



perception is learning, because cause and effect are never separated.” (M-4.1.1:2) In other words, your perceptions are conditioned by your learning. And karma is all about conditioning.

This is immediately followed by a statement of universal integrity: “The teachers of God have trust in the world, because they have learned it is not governed by the laws the world made up. It is governed by a power that is *in* them but not of them. It is this power that keeps all things safe. It is through this power that the teachers of God look on a forgiven world.” (ibid) For Buddhists, karma is described as “the good law” which educates through pleasure and pain. Where the perceptions of the mind are in harmony with truth (the Happy Dream) the experience is gratification and assurance. Where the mind clings to illusions, the disharmony results in pain and doubt. Not pain to punish, but pain to prod inquiry.

In the last section of the Text entitled “Choose Once Again” there is this statement: “Trials are but lessons that you failed to learn

presented once again, so where you made a faulty choice before you now can make a better one, and thus escape all pain that what you chose before has brought to you.” (T-31.VIII.3)

This sounds very much like karma. It implies that the trials are not imposed upon us by an outside avenger, but are self-made educational opportunities. They arrive when the distortions we cherish are causing us pain. Better thinking and clearer seeing would bring healing and happiness. Without the experience of discomfort, why would we ever question ourselves? Why would we ever ask, “Is there

another way”? In fact, Jesus tells us that, as we spiritually progress, our sensitivity to discomfort grows more subtle and acute. Spiritual vision “...brings the mind into its service. This re-establishes the power of the mind and makes it increasingly unable to tolerate delay, realizing that it only adds unnecessary pain. As a result, the mind becomes increasingly sensitive to what it would once have regarded as very minor intrusions of discomfort.” (T-2.III.4:5) The Atonement is the “...restoration of the integrity of the mind.” (T-5.I.5:4) This would be perfect harmony between the higher and lower mind. Karma simply refers to the relative harmony or disharmony between these aspects.

Discomfort and pain may be valuable communicators for the happy learner. However, this requires overcoming the ego’s strategies for (a) denying pain, (b) regarding pain as unjust attack, or (c) regarding pain as guilt.

And what about the principle “projection makes perception”? Isn’t that the true meaning of “As ye sow, so shall ye reap”? If we project limitation, separation, condemnation and guilt, we cannot escape the

“...we tend to think of karma as a ‘gotcha’ force, or a vengeful cosmic accountant who will always hound you to collect debt – and shut off your utilities when you don’t pay up!”

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Joseph Miller is a writer, broadcaster and drapery tradesman. He has practiced the Course for twenty-five years, and participates in a weekly study group at Unity Church, Santa Barbara. He is also an associate of United Lodge of Theosophists. He lives in Goleta, CA with his wife, Kim.



Love Is the Healer

by Jacob Glass

"All healing is essentially the release from fear." (T-2.IV.1:7)

At the very beginning of his ministry, when he felt in over his head and really knew nothing about healing except that people who came to him for help were healed, author and American mystic Joel S. Goldsmith was told by the Holy Spirit that *"man is not the healer."* What a fantastic relief that was to him and should be to us as well. OUR readiness is not the issue because the Holy Spirit is ALWAYS ready. What is asked of us is simply WILLINGNESS, not readiness.

More and more I have come to see that everything is about healing, and as *A Course in Miracles* says, only the mind can be sick, therefore all healing is mental healing. So, it makes no difference if we have a sick body, an ailing marriage, a sick bank account or career, or a sick country. It's all the same – no order of difficulty and none bigger or harder than another to heal. But it is all mind, mind, mind. And WE are not the ones doing the healing. The miracle of healing is the love which casts out fear.

This is not that hard to grasp, of course, but as with most things, the question becomes HOW? HOW do we allow love to heal our minds? Well, the Course has 365

days of training us how, but it's nice to be able to take all those lessons and put them in our spiritual tool kit for easy access. And it is much easier to head the ego off at the pass as soon as possible rather than waiting until there is a momentum of fear rolling along. And that is what our emotions are – a kind of GPS – a guidance system to tell us when we are getting off the highlighted route of love and inner peace. In other words, anytime we start to feel anything other than loving,

happy, and joyous, we are starting to have sick thoughts of fear and separation from God. We're having some thought or thoughts that are non-loving to another or toward ourselves. It really is just that simple.

So, here is a little "cheat sheet" I made up for my students to help us quickly return to the highlighted route which I call the "Love is the Healer Process":

1. As soon as you realize you are feeling "off" in some way, look to see what unloving (judgmental) thought you are having and RELEASE it to the Holy Spirit quickly. *(Today I will judge nothing that occurs.)*
2. Immediately return to whatever peaceful or loving thought you have access to at the time. *(I want the peace of God.)*
3. Stop arguing with reality and wanting

"And that is what our emotions are — a kind of GPS — a guidance system to tell us when we are getting off the highlighted route of love and inner peace."



people, places and things to be different than they are at this moment. *(I do not know*

what anything, including this means... and I do not perceive my own best interests.)

4. Go into appreciation of whatever good already IS in your life. Be an APPRECIATOR instead of a criticizer or "fixer" of problems. *(It is not up to me to change my brother — or myself — but merely to accept him as he is.)*

And don't forget that at any time we find ourselves doing reruns of some painful story

or drama of separation and mental fighting, we can say to ourselves, "The End," and STOP... the mental story at that moment instead of continuing to play it over and over again.

The faster we can STOP the stream of lovelessness and fear the better. The ego wants nothing more than to steal our joy and peace every moment, so I never put my spiritual tool box away. The illusory world of form is full of delights and full of continual ways of pissing us off. It is wildly distracting at the very least. It distracts us from the truth of our oneness, so I have to keep my mind FOCUSED on love, love, love, at best, and at the very least, on ways to be defenseless and somewhat humored by it all, if possible.

We're so easily thrown – you can come home from work and the neighbor has blocked your driveway AGAIN, or your

spouse did not do what they said they would do and now it's all on you AGAIN, or a politician says something that fills you with rage, or you are at the reunion and someone says, "My, you have certainly gained a colossal amount of weight since the last time I saw you" – and ego con-

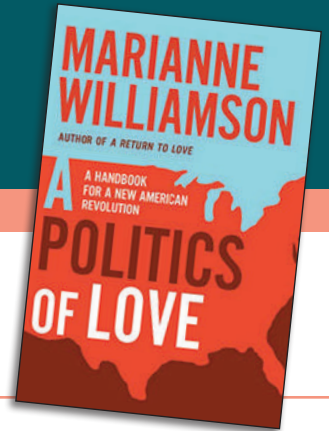
siders these a call to WAR and defense and attack. It's a great opportunity for fear to throw us into the pits of hell on earth.

So, if I am in my right mind even slightly, I might silently say to my mind, "I don't know what anything means, I want the peace of God, I want to be happy and to feel good, I want to be healed, the end. Oh, look how pretty those flowers over there are. I love gardenias!" This is what I now call being imperturbable. Imperturbable – completely at peace with yourself and your surroundings; you just cannot be disturbed; calm and composed, as if you are always meditating. Doesn't that sound fabulous?



A Politics of Love

by Marianne Williamson



Marianne's new book *A Politics of Love* is a stirring call to arms in which she confronts the cancerous politics of fear and divisiveness threatening the United States today, urging all spiritually-aware Americans to return to – and act out of – our deepest value: love. We are pleased to share an excerpt from the book...

Fight the Fighting

In 2002, I was invited by Coretta Scott King to speak at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta at the birthday celebration for Dr. King. It was a great honor to be invited, and I was prepared to give a speech about the differences between Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence and President George W. Bush's statements after 9/11.

Having arrived at the church, I was escorted to a room where I was to wait before meeting Mrs. King. When the greeter came in and asked, "Are you ready to meet Mrs. King and Mrs. Bush now?" I was stunned. I had had no idea that Laura Bush was going to be there. I was totally unprepared.

Okay, Ms. Nonviolent Feminist, how are you going to pull this off, talking about the president right in front of the woman who is married to him?

I had to think quickly, which was probably a good thing. I prayed for both women, and for myself, and then I had to go on to the pulpit. The only way I could think of to handle the situation was to turn around to Mrs. Bush every time I spoke of the president and say, "Mrs. Bush, we're praying for your husband at this difficult time." And then, as respectfully as I could, I'd let it rip.

At the end of my talk, I went to shake hands first with Mrs. King and then with Mrs. Bush. When I put my hand out to Laura, I started to apologize if I had offended her. But she graciously put her finger to my lips and, nodding her head, said, "Shhh! You did good!" I knew in that moment that she realized what had happened. She knew where she was going that day; she realized that

I disagreed with her husband, but that I had made every effort to do so with respect. She affirmed me for that, and for her kind behavior toward me that day she earned my respect as well.

My standing with those two women in that moment is a memory that is frozen in my brain. In many ways, we couldn't have been more different, yet in that moment we couldn't have been more the same. In our own way, we were experiencing politics as sacred.

We don't all have to agree with each other, but how we disagree

"At the end of my talk, I went to shake hands first with Mrs. King and then with Mrs. Bush. When I put my hand out to Laura, I started to apologize if I had offended her."



is a crucial issue in a politics of love. I've learned the hard way in my life

that the inappropriate indulgence of anger is a form of self-sabotage. We're not only responsible for our thoughts; we're also responsible for our behavior. And our behavior includes not only what we say but how we say it.

I notice on my social media that there are two different types of critics: those who disagree with me with reason and respect, and those who attack and insult me personally. From the first, I can learn things I hadn't thought about or known before; I can appreciate what they bring to my awareness. From the latter, however, I feel the energy of attack and then feel my heart constrict in response.

Nonviolence means more than giving up

physical violence; it means giving up emotional and psychological violence as well. Whether we attack a person physically or not, an attack is still an attack. Every thought we think takes form on some level, then boomerangs back to us after we put it out there. So many mental missiles are flying through the air today, you can almost feel a new American

Civil War raging on invisible planes.

This is not a time for knee-jerk attacks on people who don't agree with us, although it's absolutely a time to stand passionately for the things we believe in. That balance is challenging at times, but we owe it to

ourselves, and to our country, to arrive at the place where we can bless even those with whom we disagree politically. ...

About a year ago, I moved into an apartment in New York City. Having moved there from a building that had a beautiful, peaceful view of a church courtyard, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to find such peace and tranquility on a busy midtown street. After being in my new apartment for a day, I was gazing at the view outside and realized I was offered here another kind of peace: the spiritual opportunity to bless all the people in the buildings I could see from my window. After several minutes of thinking about how wonderful all that was – about all the people working and living in those buildings to whom I could send my love on any given day – I realized that I was looking straight at Trump Tower from my window!

You don't have to be an enlightened master to appreciate how perfect that is. Great, Marianne, I said to myself. *This is*

perfect. Every time you walk through the apartment you can bless him in your mind and feel blessed, or you can attack him in your mind and feel attacked.

Spiritual law is unalterable: if we focus on the guilt in others, we'll see guilt in ourselves; if we focus on the innocence in others, we'll feel the innocence within ourselves. Perception is a choice.

I have chosen to bless the president, not only for his sake but for my own peace of mind. I pray for his happiness and for his enlightenment. But that doesn't mean I have to agree with him. And it doesn't mean I won't do anything possible to resist his policies when they're counter to the values of our democracy or work hard to defeat him at the polls in 2020.

A politics of love is not naive. It is strategic. It is the only power that can override hate. No

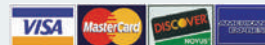
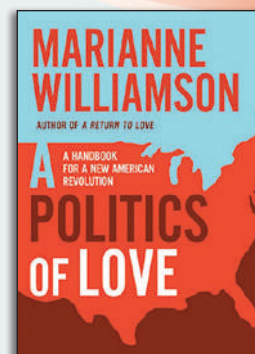
amount of intellectual analysis or traditional political strategy can override the dangerous energies unleashed by cultlike political forces. Cultlike figures appeal to something beyond the rational brain; in fact, the danger they present is that they can override the rational brain. And we must override that.

When lies are systematically presented as truth in order to obfuscate the truth, and are done so specifically for political purposes, we have a serious problem on our hands. Neither intellectual analysis nor political strategy nor brute force alone can annihilate the explosive energies of politicized hatred. Only a higher truth can prevail against that which would obliterate truth entirely. Only the power of the heart can triumph over manipulations of the mind. Only the power of the soul can override the mortal dangers posed by soullessness in our politics or anywhere else.

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Update: Prison Project

The **Prison Project** of Miracle Distribution Center sends
A Course in Miracles and other Course-based items to those in prison.

Through your generous donations, we have been able to supply many newly-started spiritual libraries in prisons. In some cases, we have been able to provide multiple copies of books. These principles are truly making a difference and quenching a thirst for truth that many in prison have found no other place.

The following letter gives an indication of the importance of our **Prison Project** in many inmates' minds and hearts. We are grateful that we are here to supply books and **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine to those who are incarcerated, so they might experience the hope and healing *A Course in Miracles* offers.

Dear Miracle Distribution Center,

My name is Jeff and I am incarcerated at a Correctional Center in Virginia. I recently ran across a book that my friend has titled, *A Course in Miracles*. He let me borrow it and I was blown away by what I was reading! It has the depth and insight I have been searching for! He also let me see **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine where I saw *A Course in Miracles* offered for sale at a good price — \$23.00, as embarrassing as it is, I cannot afford it.

I love what you are doing and thank you for making the world a brighter place.
Sincerely, Jeff



We feel honored to be able to meet Jeff's request and each request that is sent to us because of your generous support of the Prison Project. If you would like to support this project, we invite your tax-deductible donations.

If you are aware of an inmate who would like to receive books related to the Course, or **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine, let us know. Because of strict rules for sending items into prisons, please check with the particular prison authorities before you request items to be sent.

**Thank you for your support! Together we can experience healing by demonstrating healing
through our willingness to be truly helpful to others.**

To read more click on "Prison Project" under "Services" at www.miraclecenter.org



Thank God I'm Crazy!

by Grace Avalon

Mark Twain said, “The two most important days in your life are when you are born, and the day you find out why.” For me, understanding “why” came like a velvet hammer when I was twenty-two.

After being raised in a home where I was severely physically and emotionally abused, I married into an abusive relationship. One morning, around 4:00 A.M., I was crying on the sofa when suddenly I left my body and was sucked up into a vortex of exquisite kaleidoscopic light. Traveling in this glorious light, I saw many images of unfamiliar places, such as a curved driveway lined with evergreen trees. I was in absolute euphoria... I laughed and laughed. Because I'd seen visions, my husband thought I was crazy, and he put me in a mental hospital where I was drugged for nine days.

I walked out and took a good, long look at the world. I decided it's the world that is crazy! The world is a circus of greed and fear and betrayal. Now, that is INSANITY! The SANITY is the love I had come to know in the kaleidoscopic light. Much later, I learned that *A Course in Miracles* says, “A madman thinks the world he sees is real, and does not doubt it. Nor can he be swayed by questioning his thoughts' effects. It is but when their source is raised to question that the hope of freedom comes to him at last.” (W-132.1:5) Thank God I'm crazy!

I was inspired to write a book for others, and to call it *Thank God I'm Crazy, My Journey to Sanity*, to share prophetic visions that taught me that when we can see the insanity of our lives, a door opens for us to see the sanity of the love that we all really are.

To my astonishment, over the years, my life began to unfold as if living in a *dream* I'd had — and was again remembering — as over several decades all those places in my visions actually happened! I've included pictures of them in



I drove up her driveway, I suddenly knew *this was the vision* I'd had in the kaleidoscopic light; the curved road with the evergreen trees and the sun shining through them just as I'd first seen. Instead of completely collapsing into my situation in severe

depression, a beautiful calm came over me. I understood right then, that there was a power within me — but it was not of me, and somehow it was guiding me.

Miraculously, my visions became like symbols that guided me over a twenty-year, miracle-filled awakening as I realized I am not the victim of the world I see. Through this unique unveiling to symbolic vision, I saw the

oneness of everything. Simultaneously, my view of the absurdity of this world had shown me that nothing I see means anything. Yet... there is a holy purpose. With a little willingness, symbolic vision led the

“I've learned that literally everything in my seeming physical existence is a symbol waiting to teach me of my innocence and the oneness of all.”

the book. The first prophetic vision came when I'd learned my former husband was having an affair with my best friend. As

way to leave my abusive marriage, and tugged at my inner knowing until I confronted a deeply buried block of horrifying abuse from my early childhood. As I learned to trust this voice, and myself, I was guided to face many hidden fears, and to lay them to rest through radical forgiveness.

With the help of the Course, I began to know that this power *that is not of me* is in everything I see because it is in my mind — and my thoughts are somehow images I have made. After all, my mind saw images when I was twenty-two, and IT was seeing them once again. My aha was that IT is God that I am seeing in everything — because God is in my mind.

Carl Jung, said, “Symbols are a psychological mechanism that transforms energy.” Symbols stir a knowing within us that cannot be heard in the world of form. I've learned that literally everything in my seeming physical existence is a *symbol* waiting to teach me of my innocence and the oneness of all. The power of symbolic vision is in each one of us. To see symbolically is “...a new kind of projection.” (W-30.2:1)

A helpful, fun exercise I like to use in my workshops to dramatize this vision is a familiar image that can be seen as a scowling witch

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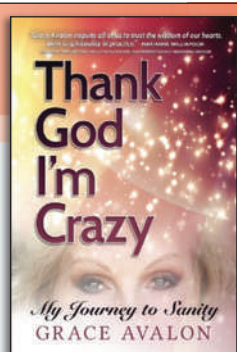
Thank God I'm Crazy,
My Journey to Sanity by Grace Avalon

This book is a life-affirming, eye-opening memoir of a woman who, thought to be crazy, was unable to deny her trust in her secret visions that — over three decades — came to life.

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Grace Avalon is an educator, business woman, and counselor. She speaks on *A Course in Miracles* and is the author of *Thank God I'm Crazy, My Journey to Sanity*.

or an elegant lady with a hat. Then I share the Course quote, "You either see or not. When you have seen one thing differently, you will see all things differently. The light you will see in any one of them is the same light you will see in them all." (W-28.2:6)

I wrote my book in animated detail to describe what heightened awareness of one's own symbolic vision and underlying guidance can look like that might otherwise be missed. Our collective dream is like a hologram. The word *hologram* defined is *holos*, or *whole*, and *gram*, or *message*. Within a *holographically* symbolic dream, reflections of the whole message are seen as love uses the dream to save the mind from illusion. "You live by symbols. You have made up names for everything you see." (W-184.1:1) [vision] "...has something to show you; something beautiful and clean and of infinite value, full of happiness and hope." (W-28.5:2)

For twenty-five years I felt like an alien here as I had kept all my visions a secret while living out my assignment as a mother, teacher, and a businesswoman. After all, people would think I was crazy! Until — one day, I met *A Course in Miracles*, which says that *all of life is a dream and everything in it is a symbol*. Really? That did it! *A Course in Miracles* gave me the courage to come out — and to write it all in a book. Halleluiah!

Flashbacks of euphoric kaleidoscopic light continue to assure me there is another way of looking at the world. So, when I find myself staring into the headlights of fear, I stop, tell myself — *I am insane right now* — then laugh and say... Thank God I'm crazy! ❖

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"Bev's knowledge of the Course and all of her explanations are wonderful. I'm so glad you have the archives available of the classes, as seeing her when she teaches is so much more effective and enjoyable for me. And I can watch the class when it's convenient for me, too."

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Are you a self-motivated learner? Do you want a better way?

"This is a course in miracles. It is a required course. Only the time you take it is voluntary."

These are the beginning words in the text's introduction. Just as any academic class you might take, *A Course in Miracles* gives you a "syllabus" that states what it is, what is required, and then the rest is up to you. The effort you

"Just as any academic class you might take, A Course in Miracles gives you a 'syllabus' that states what it is, what is required, and then the rest is up to you. The effort you put into the Course becomes the benefit or lack of benefit..."



put into the Course becomes the benefit or lack of benefit you receive. Those who want to learn will find wisdom that can last them a lifetime.

I still remember the invaluable lessons of classes I took many years ago, but I also know it was because I *wanted* to learn; I put in the effort. If you feel the Course is your path, then you need to give it the effort it asks. The Course is telling us that a course in awakening to your reality in love is required (whether it be *A Course in Miracles* or some other path), but the time you take it is voluntary. Only you can honestly answer the question as to whether you are making the effort; and whether you are a self-motivated learner.

I know some of you are already feeling guilty, right? You're wondering if you are putting in enough effort. You'd like to get a note from your Teacher saying you're a self-motivated learner, right? Rest assured the note has been sent, and your little willingness has been noticed. We are not asked to do much for our awakening; we are simply asked to turn in its direction — to become aware of our compromises to peace, our unforgiving thoughts, and no longer choose to dwell in them. Even though we may walk through the

valley of the shadow of death, we need not fear, for God is with us.

"God hides nothing from His Son, even though His Son would hide himself. Yet the Son of God cannot hide his glory, for God wills him to be glorious, and gave him the light that shines in him. You will never lose

your way, for God leads you. When you wander, you but undertake a journey that is not real. The dark companions, the dark way, are all illusions. Turn toward the light, for the little spark in you is part of a light so great that it can sweep you out of all darkness forever." (T-11.III.5)

Are you asking questions?

"To learn this course requires willingness to question every value that you hold. Not one can be kept hidden and obscure but it will jeopardize your learning." (T-24.in.2)

I've heard Course students say they do ask questions, but they don't get answers. This is usually because they have an expectation of what they want the answer to be. If we "hear" something that doesn't fit into our expectation, then we don't think we have received an answer. As the Course says, "All are called but few choose to listen." (T-3.IV.7:12)

On the other hand, children in school are much like a blank slate; they don't have a lot of blocks to learning. If they are told a lesson by their teacher, they believe him or her, and learning occurs. It has been said the most fertile time for learning occurs in those early years of life and can set the stage for a child's interest or lack of interest in learning.

Every child asks questions. Sometimes it can be tedious, but it can also be exciting if we realize it is our opportunity to learn as well. I remember when Jeffrey was little and sitting in his car seat in the backseat. As I drove, he would ask me all sorts of questions about the things he saw and the words on signs. He made me see things I had never noticed before, and my world became more interesting and full

because of the questions he posed. We need to turn to the Holy Spirit with our questions, even when we think we know, because he can show us a deeper meaning and understanding that not only makes life easier but makes it more exciting.

"Little children recognize that they do not understand what they perceive, and so they ask what it means. Do not make the mistake of believing that you understand what you perceive, for its meaning is lost to you. Yet the Holy Spirit has saved its meaning for you, and if you will let Him interpret it, He will restore to you what you have thrown away. Yet while you think you know its meaning, you will see no need to ask it of Him." (T-11.VIII.2)

Are you helping others?

"Whenever two Sons of God meet, they are given another chance at salvation. Do not leave anyone without giving salvation to him and receiving it yourself." (T-8.III.4:6)

This is a major part of the Course's curriculum because the Course is teaching you who you really are and that you cannot find yourself without your brother. There are so many passages which reflect this truth, and the following is a particularly powerful one:

"The goal of the curriculum, regardless of the teacher you choose, is 'Know thyself.'"



"Every child asks questions. Sometimes it can be tedious, but it can also be exciting if we realize it is our opportunity to learn as well."

There is nothing else to seek. Everyone is looking for himself and for the power and glory he thinks he has lost. Whenever you are with anyone, you have another opportunity to

find them. Your power and glory are in him because they are yours. The ego tries to find them in yourself alone, because it does not know where to look. The Holy Spirit teaches you that if you look only at yourself you cannot find yourself, because that is not what you are." (T-8.III.5)

Kids are encouraged to help each other in class because by doing so it reinforces what they have learned. The first time I was asked to help my fellow students was in kindergarten. The teacher gave me a threaded sewing needle and had me sew on buttons for the two eyes of each student's bunny poster. All these years later, I can still feel the joy of being helpful. I can see how that simple, little experience set the stage for my life's work.

Every time you have reached out to another, I know you have felt the same reward. It's not dependent on whether or not they respond with great appreciation or not. As a matter of fact, I can't remember one student's reaction to my gesture of help, but the joy was not about thanks, it was about seeing I was needed and purposeful.

We can all be purposeful. Don't diminish your extensions of love or service because it doesn't look as grand as another. As the Course tells us, all expressions of love are maximal.

A good example is the Biblical story of the widow's mite. The widow who had so little wanted to tithe to Jesus when he was teaching in the Temple of Jerusalem, and so she gave a mite, which was a very meager sum (it translated to be worth about six minutes of an average daily wage). Jesus told his disciples that she gave the greatest gift, for the small gift meant more to her than the extravagant gifts meant to the rich. Don't diminish your gifts of service and support, but see each as an extension of love whose value cannot be quantified.

Are we communicating with God when we need help?

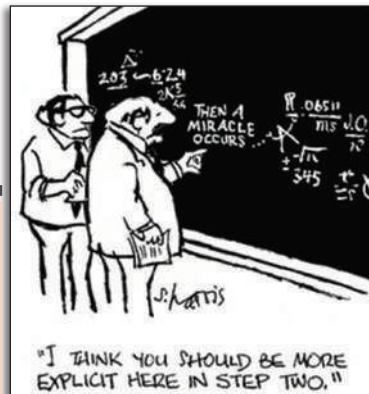
"God is your safety in every circumstance. His Voice speaks for Him in all situations and in every aspect of all situations, telling you exactly what to do to call upon His strength and His protection." (Lesson 47)

Why would we not turn to God for help with this type of guarantee? Why would we want to do anything without His help?

As Jeffrey enters higher levels of science and math, he is encouraged to ask for help

and show his work, especially when solving physics equations and mathematical theorems. His teachers promote this because then they can see where students are making errors and quickly identify the problem and correct it, so the students can easily continue on their path of learning. Many times it's a simple concept mistake, but if students don't show their work, they can feel overwhelmed

"As Jeffrey enters higher levels of science and math, he is encouraged to ask for help and show his work, especially when solving physics equations and mathematical theorems."



and think they can't do this type of problem solving at all.

When Jeffrey

has asked for help from a teacher, he will usually tell me it was an easy fix because his teacher could see where his thinking might be faulty and introduce a correction. This is much the same way the Holy Spirit can help us with our faulty thinking as we read in the Course...

"The Holy Spirit asks of you but this; bring to Him every secret you have locked away from Him. Open every door to Him, and bid Him enter the darkness and lighten it away. At your request He enters gladly. He brings the light to darkness if you make the darkness open to Him. But what you hide He cannot look upon. He sees for you, and unless you look with Him He cannot see. The vision of Christ is not for Him alone, but for



"Children are naturally excited about growing up and learning. I remember playing school before I was old enough to go to school, and I bet you did too."

Him with you.

Bring, therefore, all your dark and secret thoughts to Him, and look upon them with Him. He holds the light, and you the darkness. They cannot coexist when both of You together look on them." (T-14.VII.6)

The Course tells us that salvation is not hard, it's just very different than what we are used to. As children we are taught to become self-sufficient, but would we ever tell a child he or she doesn't need food, water, shelter, or any of the things vital to their existence?

Our communication with God is integral to the awareness of our real existence; we could not live without it. Therefore, the communication is always going on, but it's just one-sided — meaning God is always communicating with us, but we are not experiencing it. Our desire to hold onto our anger, judgments, or rightness is causing us to feel disconnected from His Help. We need to understand how vital it is for us to turn to God, not just when we need help, but every moment of the day. We have built up so much resistance to the truth that we now must develop the habit of joining our minds with God.

Children are naturally excited about growing up and learning. I remember playing school before I was old enough to go to school, and I bet you did too. I have never really had a problem getting Jeffrey to go to school because he wanted to learn. Even when he experienced some challenges in school, he never let them stop him from seeing the bigger picture of what school could offer. This is much like what the Course is offering us as we continue our "higher" education. We are asked to lift our vision from the fearful fray of the world and move above the battleground where we can see with more clarity the benefit of our healing.

Let's Sum It Up...

The Course tells us to teach is to learn. Therefore, we learn through the demonstration and actions of our life. If we are living a life dedicated to learning the truth of

our existence, questioning the limitations of the world, helping each other, and opening our hearts to the answers of the Infinite, life becomes an exciting adventure of endless possibilities.

Continued on page 14

Where Is the Call

Continued from page 5

in *Miracles* teaches us that there are no neutral thoughts and that hiding and being inauthentic brings us guilt and great suffering. By expanding the awareness of love through forgiveness in the present moment, we discover there is nothing we would want to hide even if

“...the Course explains that all situations and behavior we witness in the world are either an expression of love or a call for love.”



we could. One of my favorite Course quotes explains:

“The escape from darkness involves two stages: First, the recognition that darkness cannot hide. This step usually entails fear. Second, the recognition that there is nothing you want to hide even if you could. This step brings escape from fear. When you have become willing to hide nothing, you will not only be willing to enter into communion but will also understand peace and joy.” (T-1.IV.1)

This quote suggests that a solution to pain is authenticity and honesty by way of “being willing to hide nothing.” This is why whenever I am upset about someone else’s behavior, I do my best to ask myself whether I have

ever behaved like this in some way. People are pretty darn busy these days thinking a solution will come from defending, pretending, spinning, preaching, and attacking. In contrast, profound answers to our conflicts

in life are within the discipline of authenticity, acceptance, living by example, and full responsibility and ownership of our experience in the world and what we bring to it moment to moment.

Within My Mind
Beneath my judgments of others
and criticism of myself,
above and beyond
my insane ideas of separate interests,
is the one true idea:
We are all one now and forever.

I can forget this truth of who I am but I can never lose it.
In the One Mind
love is kept safe.

Behind every harsh thought I have
or fearful image I have made,
the truth of who I am remains unmarred.
Beneath every mask is the face of love.
Behind every dark thought,
the light of love continues to shine.
Beyond all I believed I needed from the world,
Love shows me I need but remember who I am.
Love remains everywhere, in everything,
in every being, now and forever. ❖

What’s Happening

Continued from page 2

quotes were chosen to encourage and remind you of the joy and support you are entitled to every day, every night, and every moment of the day. Find it in our online store or give us a call.

● **“This world is full of miracles. - They stand in shining silence next to every dream of pain and suffering, of sin and guilt.”** (T-28.II.12)
We are entitled to miracles, but we will never experience them as long as we are distracted by our frenetic world and lives. God does not

ask us to give much, just an instant – a holy instant – to allow truth to reign in our life. We invite you to take that holy instant with us daily in prayerful thought for yourself, loved ones, and those in the Miracle Prayer Ministry. Every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time), we invite you to stop and join us. Together, we can experience the miracles we are entitled to. Thoughts for:

September: God is my strength. Vision is His gift. (L42)

October: Let me remember I am one with God. (L124)

November: I thank my Father for His gifts to me. (L123) ❖

Student of the Month

Continued from page 13

At the end of every commencement speech, students are told of their limitless potential and how a future of success is within their reach. The same is true for us right now. We have never lost our power or place in the Mind of God, but it’s up to us when we will experience it.



“At the end of every commencement speech, students are told of their limitless potential and how a future of success is within their reach. The same is true for us right now.”

Your student of the month note has been sent; you just need to open it up and be willing to believe it’s meant for you!

“Forget not once this journey is begun the end is certain. Doubt along the way will come and go and go to come again. Yet is the ending sure. No one can fail to do what God appointed him to do. When you forget, remember that you walk with Him and with His Word upon your heart. Who could despair when hope like this is his?” (M-Epilogue) ❖

Divine Divining!

Dip into the pool of the divine whenever you need inspiration!

Go to www.miraclecenter.org/quotes and a thought will be selected for you at that exact moment.

As *A Course in Miracles* reminds us,
“... no one is where he is by accident, and chance plays no part in God’s plan.”



The Ego Voice

Continued from page 4

life is to see this holy light in everyone we encounter. This light does not use behavior as a way of attacking other people.

Through the lessons of the Course, we

find that forgiveness resulting in compassion, kindness, and love helps us detach from the painful past and the anxious future, to find peace of mind



we can learn to live in this holy instant for the rest of our lives where the Voice of God can

be found.

So if you desire to live a life where you experience true and lasting happiness, kindness to both others and yourself, where forgiveness is the key to happiness, the Voice of God becomes the answer for finding the best thing to think, say, and do. That Voice will

always be there for you because it is part of you. As we continue to listen to the repetitive lessons of the Course, it becomes possible to experience the Peace of God on an ongoing basis by resisting the temptation to make

judgments about others or ourselves. ❖

“A quiet mind allows us to listen to the Inner Voice, but many of us get distracted by the noise we hear in the world and what we see with our physical eyes.”

in the present moment. It teaches us that life and love are eternal, that time is just an invention of the ego, and that

A Case for Karma

Continued from page 6

consequences. “What would have effects through you must also have effects on you.” (W-26)

The Buddha said, “Each man his prison

makes.” The Eastern idea of “karma” often emphasizes self-bondage. But doesn’t the Course do the same? “For everyone is seeking to escape from the prison he has made, and the way to find release is not denied him.” (T-13.1.5:3)

And remember this from Lesson 128? — “Each thing you value here is but a chain that binds you to the world, and it will serve no other end but this. For everything must serve the purpose you have given it, until you see a different purpose there.”

True, the present moment constitutes the “miracle zone,” the region of the Holy Instant, and the only time where forgiveness lives. “Release the future. For the past is gone, and what is present, freed from its bequest of grief and misery, of pain and loss, becomes the instant in which time escapes the bondage of illusions where it runs its pitiless, inevitable course.” (W-194.5)

This is not a frivolous release. It means overcoming “the attraction of guilt,” which requires careful and long-term excavation. We are not being tortured by an outside authority who keeps points. We are only liquidating the investments our own minds have made. ❖

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