

**CLASS: TWELVE WEEK – DECODING AND LIVING ACIM**  
**WEEK NINE - GENERAL HANDOUT**

**WEEK # 9 HANDOUT # 1**

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**Opening prayer:** from ACIM T.2.5.18

“ 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. And so it is.

**Genesis Revisited- The Making of a False Egoic god of Fear**

**Discussion of homework assignment from week # 8: Walk for Forgiveness and Atonement.**

**Review of terms:** Justice, judgment and forgiveness

**ATONEMENT**

Webster defines atonement as= satisfaction given for a wrong doing

Webster defines atonement theologically as = the effect of Jesus' sufferings and death in redeeming mankind and bringing about reconciliation of God to man.

**What is the difference between ACIM and Webster's definition of atonement?**

**ACIM** defines atonement as the correcting or undoing of any error in thinking. There is no “wrong doing” that requires satisfaction. A mistake or an error, unlike sin, requires no punishment since no one has been “wronged.” There is no satisfaction demanded by God. The “atoner” accepts God's perfect love, which God has never withheld.

The Atonement is the correcting of the Son's error in his belief that he could be something other than as God created him. The Atonement is the return to right-mindedness. It is the replacement of all fear with love. When God creates, He extends Himself completely. God shares Himself to His creations totally. God gives everything because He is everything. Nothing and everything cannot coexist. Our world of provisional reality does not exist in the Mind of God and, therefore, it is nothing. The Atonement is the correction of the son's error in the belief of the existence of nothingness, which is what provisional reality actually represents. This dream world was born out of fear. Fear can be mastered by love. When we realize our Oneness with God, sin, which has been define as lack of love, disappears. We recognize that sin, guilt and fear, which created our nightmarish dream, were never real and this recognition heals our “split-mind.” The Atonement process returns the part of your mind that you had given over to the thought system of the ego and returns it to the thought system of the Holy Spirit. This makes your mind whole and returns your mind back to the Kingdom, Level #1, where it belongs. The Atonement does nothing from the standpoint that it does not oppose anything. It merely recognizes truth as truth. The Atonement changes nothing

since truth is eternal and changeless. Yet, in this recognition of truth, all false beliefs disappear. Truth requires no defense. Truth just is.

**Reference: T-2.VII.6** It should especially be noted that God has only <one> Son. 2 If all His creations are His Sons, every one must be an integral part of the whole Sonship. 3 The Sonship in its Oneness transcends the sum of its parts. 4 However, this is obscured as long as any of its parts is missing. 5 That is why the conflict cannot ultimately be resolved until all the parts of the Sonship have returned. 6 Only then can the meaning of wholeness in the true sense be understood. 7 Any part of the Sonship can believe in error or incompleteness if he so chooses. 8 However, if he does so, he is believing in the existence of nothingness. 9 The correction of this error is the Atonement.

**References: T-5.VI.9** "The wicked shall perish" becomes a statement of Atonement, if the word "perish" is understood as "be undone." 2 Every loveless thought must be undone, a word the ego cannot even understand. 3 To the ego, to be undone means to be destroyed. 4 The ego will not be destroyed because it is part of your thought, but because it is uncreative and therefore unsharing, it will be reinterpreted to release you from fear. 5 The part of your mind that you have given to the ego will merely return to the Kingdom, where your whole mind belongs. 6 You can delay the completion of the Kingdom, but you cannot introduce the concept of fear into it.

### **Atonement Process**

**How do I participate in the Atonement Process?**

**What must I accept from God during the Atonement Process?**

The acceptance of the Atonement is a removal of fear. In the Atonement Process, you must first recognize that fear exists. Since fear is the opposite of love, fear arises from the lack of love. The remedy for lack of love is unconditional or perfect love. The acceptance of God's perfect love for oneself is the Atonement. The sole responsibility of each of us, (each part of the Sonship), is to accept the Atonement for himself. When this is accomplished, we no longer condemn anyone or ourselves. This demonstrates the connectiveness of each part to the whole.

**Reference: TM-18.4.** In order to heal, it thus becomes essential for the teacher of God to let all his own mistakes be corrected. 2 If he senses even the faintest hint of irritation in himself as he responds to anyone, let him instantly realize that he has made an interpretation that is not true. 3 Then let him turn within to his eternal Guide, and let Him judge what the response should be. 4 So is he healed, and in his healing is his pupil healed with him. 5 The sole responsibility of God's teacher is to accept the Atonement for himself. 6 Atonement means correction, or the undoing of errors. 7 When this has been accomplished, the teacher of God becomes a miracle worker by definition. 8 His sins have been forgiven him, and he no longer condemns himself. 9 How can he then condemn anyone? 10 And who is there whom his forgiveness can fail to heal?

**Reference: T-2.VI.7** The first corrective step in undoing the error is to know first that the conflict is an expression of fear. 2 Say to yourself that you must somehow have chosen not to love, or the fear could not have arisen. 3 Then the whole process of correction becomes nothing more than a series of pragmatic steps in the larger process of accepting the Atonement as the remedy. 4 These steps may be summarized in this way:

5 Know first that this is fear.

6 Fear arises from lack of love.

7 The only remedy for lack of love is perfect love.

8 Perfect love is the Atonement.

The choice is always between love and fear. If we have lost our inner peace, we are coming from fear. We have raised body thoughts to the level of mind. We have made the illusionary dream of the fragmentation of Oneness appear real. It is our belief in separation that leads to the making of conflict and fear.

**Am I responsible for forcing my brothers to accept the Atonement and truth about themselves?**

You are not responsible for “fixing” your brother. If god created the Sonship what could there be to correct? Instead you are responsible to correct any misperception you have held about your brother. We need to correct our own egoic misperception of what our brother is. To accept the Atonement for yourself is to accept the truth of your divine inheritance. If you accept this about yourself, you automatically extend that same divine inheritance to all of the Sonship. To force another to accept the truth would not be love but rather an attack that engenders fear in another. God has created us free to be or imagine anything we want. Accepting the Atonement for ourselves means allowing your brother total freedom to create or make as he desires knowing that he remains eternally part of the Oneness, perfect, whole and complete. The greatest service I can do for the Sonship is to accept the Atonement for myself. By seeing all in the light of this truth, we uplift the entire Sonship in the goal of accepting the Atonement and return to the knowledge of what we truly are.

**Reference: ACIM Dummies T-4.II.2.** Everyone makes an ego or a self for himself, which is subject to enormous variation because of **the ego’s** instability. 2 He also makes an ego for everyone else he perceives, which is equally variable **or instable**. 3 Their interaction (**your own ego and the ego you made for someone else**) is a process that alters both, because they were not made by or with the Unalterable (**part of the Mind of God**). 4 It is important to realize that this alteration can and does occur as readily when the interaction takes place in the mind as when **the interaction** involves physical proximity. 5 Thinking about another ego is as effective in changing relative perception as is physical interaction. 6 There could be no better example that the ego is only an idea and not a fact.

We create our ego, which determines how we perceive ourselves to be. We also create an ego for everyone else. Perception, since it is not knowledge, is subject to change based on the mind of the perceiver. Since these ego’s are our own perception which is subject to change, the egos that we make and project upon ourselves and others are unstable and subject to change. Being only thought projections, egos represent the idea that we hold in our mind about any subject. It is our story, not the “facts.” As we change our thinking, we change our perception of what we believe and change our egoic projections. Our perceptions form the basis for our own “provisional reality,” “dream state” or “illusionary world.” By changing our thinking, we can change our “provisional reality.”

## **HEALING**

ACIM states that healing and the Atonement are identical. It also states that to forgive is to heal. This is because all three, healing, forgiveness, and the Atonement deal with the correction of the same error, which is the forgetting of what we truly are. Accept the truth about ourselves and all illusion disappears. Healing takes place in the mind since that is where the decision for sickness was made. The focus and place of healing is in the mind, not the body.

**Reference: TM-22.1.** Healing and Atonement are not related; they are identical. 2 There is no order of difficulty in miracles because there are no degrees of Atonement. 3 It is the one complete concept possible in this world, because it is the source of a wholly unified perception. 4 Partial Atonement is a meaningless idea, just as special areas of hell in Heaven are inconceivable. 5 Accept Atonement and you are healed. 6 Atonement is the Word of God. 7 Accept His Word and what remains to make sickness possible? 8 Accept His Word and every miracle has been accomplished. 9 To forgive is to heal. 10 The teacher of God has taken accepting the Atonement for himself as his only function. 11 What is there, then, he cannot heal? 12 What miracle can be withheld from him?

### **How is healing accomplished?**

**What is sickness for?**

**Who or what is the patient's physician?**

Healing must first involve understanding what the illusion of sickness is for. Sickness' purpose is to "prove" that we are a body and that the mind is powerless to control the body. Once we realize that sickness is actually a decision, we need to reclaim our mind's ability as decision-maker and choose again by seeing no value in pain. The patient's physician is actually the mind of the patient himself. There is no requirement for an outside source to "heal" the patient. The patient always heals himself or herself only when they see no further value in maintaining the form of sickness that they have chosen. The "special agent" who is the person performing the healing is merely there to remind the "patient" of God's remedy, which is simply to remember their own divine birthright. The teacher or healer cannot change the mind of the patient, but they can question the validity of what the patient believes to be true. Advanced teachers don't consider the form of the sickness that the patient "has" since all sickness has the same purpose. The teacher reminds the patient that the patient did not make himself (authority problem), and that the patient must remain as God created him. Illusions, and any form that an illusion may take, has no effect on reality. All illusions of sickness are equally false. The function of God's teacher, which is the healer or miracle worker, is to see no will separate from their own will, nor separate from God's Will.

**Reference: TM-5.1.** Healing involves an understanding of what the illusion of sickness is for. 2 Healing is impossible without this.

**Reference: TM-5.I.1.** Healing is accomplished the instant the sufferer no longer sees any value in pain.

### **Is healing certain?**

**Who ultimately gives the gift of healing?**

### **What is the cause of a teacher's inability to heal?**

ACIM states that healing is certain, but that the healing will be set aside in time by the patient, if the healing is perceived as a threat by the patient. Because of this fact, the teacher must not judge if the healing was actually received. The healer must be certain that the healing has been received regardless of the physical appearance. Healing will be accepted when it is recognized as a blessing not a curse. The teacher must trust that the giving has occurred and not be concerned with the outcome of the gift. The Holy Spirit insures that the gift will not be unused. It is the Holy Spirit in the mind of the giver, who gives the gift to the receiver or patient. The teacher must trust the Holy Spirit. If the teacher lacks trust, the teacher, himself, will become a patient in need of healing. The sole responsibility of the teacher or miracle worker is to accept the Atonement for himself. In order for the miracle workers to heal, they must accept healing for themselves. The gift of healing is ultimately from God and God's gifts cannot be withdrawn. To doubt the healing power of the Holy Spirit because of the appearance of continued symptoms is a mistake in the form of lack of trust in God by the teacher. This lack of trust is an attack by the teacher. Love without trust is impossible. Doubt and trust cannot coexist. The miracle worker must not doubt God's gifts and, therefore, must not doubt their results. The Holy Spirit insures the results. Doubt is always the self-doubt of the teacher. The healer must have no self-doubt. Any self-doubt is a mistake. The mistake is always some form of concern with the teacher to the exclusion of the patient. It is a failure by the teacher to recognize the Oneness of both the patient and the teacher with God. This is a confusion of the teacher's own identity as a Oneness. The teacher has denied that God is the source of his or her own creation.

For those interested in learning more about healing, the following sections of the ACIM's Teachers' Manual would be a valuable resource.

M-Part #5 How is Healing Accomplished?

M-Part # 6 Is healing certain?

M-Part #7 Should Healing Be Repeated?

**Note:** The ACIM Teachers' Manual is an excellent resource to understanding both the terms and specific areas in the course. It is by far the most readable and easily understood section of the three-part book. It is presented in a question and answer format and would be an excellent place for anyone to start their ACIM training after reading the ACIM's Preface. The Teacher's Manual can help you unlock the key to ACIM.

**Homework: Review handouts. Complete next five Lessons # 41-45 & Summary Lesson # 59**

**Homework: Complete exercise: Exploring Beliefs, Projection and the Ego's Defense System. We will discuss this exercise next week. Week #9 Handout # 3**

**Group meditation or Ending prayer:** Father, I believed I had lost my divine birthright. Now, I realize I was only “living” in my own self-created nightmare of illusion. I reawaken now to reclaim my divine birthright. Thank you for preserving what I feared I had lost. I forgive my brother and myself and remember all that you have given me. Your unconditional Love is all there is. I love myself unconditionally. Your Will is only that Your Child be happy. I now freely embrace Your Will as my own will. I come home to You, Father. Your prodigal son has return to his source. I join in the Oneness that is You. And so it is.

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