

Jan 13, 2010

Staying the Course
Prepared by Jennifer Feiereisel

Following are quotes from A Course in Miracles used in Jennifer's talk at the Wednesday evening service on January 13, 2010. Quotes from Neil's talk are at the end of this document.

"The emphasis this course has placed on that idea is due to its centrality in our attempts to change your mind about yourself. It is the reason you can heal. It is the course of healing". (L. 167, 3, P. 318)

"Salvation is a promise, made by God, that you would find your way to Him at last. It cannot but be kept". (W. #2, 1, P.407)

"The Course is simple. It has one function and one goal". (Clarification of terms, Intro. 3, P.77)

"It is concerned only with Atonement, or the correction of perception. The means of the Atonement is forgiveness". (Clarification of terms, Intro. 1, P.77)

"This course makes no attempt to teach what cannot easily be learned. Its scope does not exceed your own, except to say that what is yours will come to you when you are ready". (Ch 24, VII 8, P.516)

"But knowledge is beyond the goals we seek to teach within the framework of this course. Ours are teaching goals, to be attained through learning how to reach them, what they are, and what they offer you". (L.138, 5, P.264)

"...Perception has no function in God, and does not exist. Yet in Salvation, which is the undoing of what never was, perception has a mighty purpose. ...Perception has no meaning. Yet does the Holy Spirit give it a meaning... by which the Son of God forgives his brother, and thus forgives himself". (L.43, 2, P.67)

"It would indeed be strange if you were asked to go beyond all symbols of the world, forgetting them forever; yet were asked to take a teaching function. You have need to use the symbols of the world a while. But be you not deceived by them as well. They do not stand for anything at all, and in your practicing it is this thought that will release you from them. They become but means by which you can communicate in ways the world can understand, but which you recognize is not the unity where true communication can be found. (L.184, 9, P.346)

"Learning is change. Salvation does not seek to use a means as yet too alien to your thinking to be helpful, nor to make the kinds of change you could not recognize. Concepts are needed while perception lasts, and changing concepts is salvation's task". (Ch 31, VII 1, P.662)

"This is not a course in the play of ideas, but in their practical application. Nothing could be more specific than to be told that if you ask you will receive. The Holy Spirit will answer every specific problem as long as you believe that problems are specific. His answer is both many and one, as long as you believe that the one is many". (Ch11, VIII 5, P.212)

"We are therefore embarking on an organized, well-structured and carefully planned program aimed at learning how to offer to the Holy Spirit everything you do not want". (Ch12, II 10, P.220)

“It is most unlikely that changes in attitudes would not be the first step in the newly made teacher of God’s training. There is, however, no set pattern, since training is always highly individualized”. (M. #9, P.26)

“Remember only this; you need not believe the ideas, you need not accept them, and you need not even welcome them. Some of them you may actively resist. None of this will matter, or decrease their efficacy. But do not allow yourself to make exceptions in applying the ideas the workbook contains, and whatever your reactions to the ideas maybe, use them. Nothing more than that is required”. (W. Intro, 9, P.2)

“This course does not attempt to teach more than they learned in time, but it does aim at saving time. You may be attempting to follow a very long road to the goal you have accepted. It is extremely difficult to reach Atonement by fighting against sin. Enormous effort is expended in the attempt to make holy what is hated and despised. Nor is a lifetime of contemplation and long periods of meditation aimed at detachment from the body necessary. All such attempts will ultimately succeed because of their purpose. Yet the means are tedious and very time consuming, for all of them look to the future for release from a state of present unworthiness and inadequacy....Your way will be different, not in purpose but in means” . (Ch18, VII 4, 5, P.389)

“This course does not attempt to take from you the little that you have. It does not try to substitute utopian ideas for satisfactions which the world contains. There are no satisfactions in the world.” (L.133, 2, P.245)

“Fear not that you will be abruptly lifted up and hurled into reality. Time is kind, and if you use it on behalf of reality, it will keep gentle pace with you in your transition. The urgency is only in dislodging your mind from its fixed position here. This will not leave you homeless and without a frame of reference”. (Ch16, VII 8, P.346)

“There is no need to learn through pain. And gentle lessons are acquired joyously, and are remembered gladly”. (Ch 21, I 3, P.446)

“It is not time we need for this. It is but willingness. For what would seem to need a thousand years can easily be done in just one instant by the grace of God”. (L.196, 4, P.374)

“The Holy Instant does not come from your little willingness alone. It is always the result of your small willingness combined with the unlimited power of God’s Will”. (Ch18, IV 4, P.381)

“Deny not Heaven. It is yours today, but for the asking. Nor need you perceive how great the gift, how changed your mind will be before it comes to you. Ask to receive, and it is given you. Conviction lies within it. Till you welcome it as yours, uncertainty remains. **Yet God is fair. Sureness is not required** to receive what only your acceptance can bestow.

Ask with desire. **You need not be sure that you request the only thing you want.** But when you have received, you will be sure you have the treasure you have always sought.

Your doubts are meaningless, for God is certain.

We count on God, and not upon ourselves, to give us certainty. And in His Name we practice as His Word directs we do. His sureness lies beyond our every doubt. His Love remains beyond our every fear. The Thought of Him is still beyond all dreams and in our minds, according to His Will". (L.165,4,5,7,8 P.313)

"A major hazard to success has been involvement with your past and future goals. You have been quite preoccupied with how extremely different the goals this course is advocating are from those you held before. And you have also been dismayed by the depressing and restricting thought that, even if you should succeed, you will inevitably lose your way again.

How could this matter? For the past is gone; the future but imagined. These concerns are but defenses against present change of focus in perception. Nothing more. We lay these pointless limitations by a little while. We do not look to past beliefs, and what we will believe will not intrude upon us now. We enter in the time of practicing with one intent; to look upon the sinlessness within". (L.181 ,4,5, P.337)

The Course does not attempt to go beyond what cannot be easily learned.

It speaks of absolute truths while giving us realistic tools to reach them.

Its approach is friendly and practical.

The Course is well structured and yet individualized.

It invites, not demands.

It saves time.

It does not ask for any sacrifice.

The learning process is gentle, gradual and joyful.

It asks very little of us.

We are being guided and encouraged every step of the way.

Father, how certain are Your ways; how sure their final outcome, and how faithfully is every step in my salvation set already, and accomplished by Your grace. Thanks be to You for Your eternal gifts, and thanks to you for my identity. (L. 297, P 447).

So do we bring our practicing to You. And if we stumble, You will raise us up. If we forget the way, we count upon Your sure remembering. We wander off, but You will not forget to call us back. Quicken our footsteps now, that we may walk more certainly and quickly unto You. (W. Review V 3, P.329)

The end is certain, and the means as well. To this we say "Amen" (W. Epilogue, 5, P.487)

Time and Willingness
Prepared by Neil Feiereisel

Many have spent a lifetime in preparation, and have indeed achieved their instants of success. This course does not attempt to teach more than they learned in time, but it does aim at saving time. You may be attempting to follow a very long road to the goal you have accepted. It is extremely difficult to reach Atonement by fighting against sin. Enormous effort is expended in the attempt to make holy what is hated and despised. Nor is a lifetime of contemplation and long periods of meditation aimed at detachment from the body necessary. All such attempts will ultimately succeed because of their purpose. Yet the means are tedious and very time consuming, for all of them look to the future for release from a state of present unworthiness and inadequacy. Text-18.VII.4.4

"I need do nothing" is a statement of allegiance, a truly undivided loyalty. Believe it for just one instant, and you will accomplish more than is given to a century of contemplation, or of struggle against temptation. Text-18.VII.6.7

Here is the quick and open door through which you slip past centuries of effort, and escape from time. Text-18.VII.7.3

It is not time we need for this. It is but willingness. For what would seem to need a thousand years can easily be done in just one instant by the grace of God. (Lesson 196, P4)

Love waits on welcome, not on time... Text-13.VII.9.7

If it helps you, think of me holding your hand and leading you. And I assure you this will be no idle fantasy. Lesson 70 P9

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.
Chapter 2, Section VI, P18 (page 28)

What would You have me do?
Where would You have me go?
What would You have me say, and to whom?
Lesson 71