

The Christian Bookstore & the Happy Meal

A few years ago, I wandered into a Christian bookstore in San Francisco. I wasn't looking for trouble—just browsing. And suddenly I found myself face-to-face with glow-in-the-dark Jesuses, bobblehead Jesuses, and Jesus keychains. I thought, *“Wow, Jesus has been merchandised more than Mickey Mouse!”*

I half expected to see a “Happy Meal Jesus” with a tiny communion wafer toy inside. I laughed aloud. But then the thought hit me: *We've turned Jesus into a brand.* What if the real Jesus—the Mystic Jesus—isn't something we stick on a dashboard, but a living, breathing presence in us right now?

Introduction to A Course in Miracles & Marianne Williamson

A Course in Miracles tells us plainly: every thought we think, every choice we make is either fear or love. That's it. And a miracle isn't fireworks—it's the shift in perception that moves us from fear to love.

Marianne Williamson has helped millions of people understand this. In her latest book, *The Mystic Jesus: The Mind of Love*, she reminds us that Jesus isn't a distant figure locked in history, but a living presence that reshapes our hearts and minds today.

The Theme

Jesus said, *“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20). He wasn't kidding. He wasn't talking about stained glass or history books. He was talking about right here, right now.

The Challenges We Face

- Wars and politics divide us.
- Climate change leaves us anxious about the future.
- Personally, we wrestle with loneliness, loss, and that nagging voice that whispers, *“You're not enough.”*
- And social media? Let's say—storms everywhere.

Jesus in the Storm

The disciples had storms, too (Matthew 14). While they panicked, Jesus walked calmly on the water, saying: *“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”* Notice—he didn't erase the storm. He didn't say, *“Alexa! Stop the storm!”* He showed them how to stand in peace within it.

Quotes That Light the Path

- **Martin Luther King Jr.:** *“It is time to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of human civilization.”*
- **Meister Eckhart:** *“The eye with which I see God is the same eye with which God sees me.”*
- **A Course in Miracles:** *“A miracle is a shift in perception from fear to love.”*

Practical Steps: How Do We Live This?

1. Pause in the Storm

Before firing back at the rude comment, before panic takes over, before your inner critic grabs the microphone—pause. Take one deep breath and silently affirm: *“Peace is possible now.”* This is not avoidance—it's giving yourself the space to respond instead of reacting. That pause is the doorway through which miracles walk.

2. Shift from Fear to Love

In every situation, ask: “*What would Love have me do right now?*” Fear says, “Cut them off. Protect yourself. Attack first.” Love says, “Listen. Forgive. Show compassion.” This doesn’t mean you ignore healthy boundaries; it means you choose a response rooted in healing, not harm. Try it in traffic, in challenging conversations, or even with yourself when guilt creeps in.

3. See Jesus as Present Within You

Stop seeing Jesus as a faraway savior who occasionally checks in. Please begin to see him as a constant companion, alive within you. Picture him walking into that stressful meeting at work or sitting with you when you’re grieving. He said, “*I am with you always.*” Take him at his word.

4. Practice Defenselessness

Most of us love our defenses: sarcasm, anger, icy silence, that imaginary courtroom where we always win. But defenselessness is strength. When someone criticizes you, you don’t have to carry the battle inside. You can respond with kindness—or even silence—and refuse to let fear rent space in your heart. Defenselessness is radical because it refuses to play fear’s game.

5. Affirm Daily

Each morning, before the phone, before the news, say: “*I open my heart to the Mystic Jesus within me.*” Write it on your mirror, set it as a reminder. It’s like brushing your spiritual teeth, preventing fear from building up as plague on your soul. Affirmations train the mind for love until it becomes our natural reflex.

Closing Story – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Archbishop Desmond Tutu knew storms—apartheid, injustice, violence. Yet he was known for joy. His laughter filled rooms, he danced in church, and he cracked jokes in interviews. He wasn’t blind to pain, but he refused to give fear the last word. That’s what it looks like when the Mystic Jesus is alive in you—joy in the middle of the storm.

Affirmation: “*The Mystic Jesus is here now, shaping my mind in love. I now shape my mind in love.*”

Meditation – Ever Ancient, Ever New

Breathe in love. Exhale worry. Walk along the dawn path, see the golden light ahead—the Mystic Jesus, alive, radiant, compassionate. He is ever ancient, rooted in timeless truth. He is ever new, shining with hope today.

Whisper: “*The Christ in me is alive. Ever ancient. Ever new.*”

And carry that truth into every storm: Jesus is not far away—he is alive in you, yesterday, today, and forever.

Beloved friends, as you leave this place today, may you carry with you the light of the Mystic Jesus—ever ancient, ever new. May this presence steady you in every storm, soften your heart in every conflict, and remind you that love is always stronger than fear. May your eyes see with compassion, your words speak with kindness, and your steps walk gently upon this earth. And may you know, deep within, that you are never alone. The Christ within you is alive, guiding, shaping, and loving you always. Go in peace and go in joy. Amen.