



LESSON 73

I will there be light.

Sarah's Commentary:

This Lesson contrasts our ego wishes, which have no power, with "**The will you share with God [that] has all the power of creation in it.**" (W.73.1.3) Jesus tells us that our will is the same as God's Will because He is our Creator. It is the only true will. Everything else is just idle wishes, which make nothing. "**Yet God wills. He does not wish. Your will is as powerful as His because it is His.**" (T.7.X.4.6-8) (ACIM OE T.7.XI.102) Again, Jesus says, "**You must ask what God's Will is in everything, because it is yours.**" (T.11.I.8.5) (ACIM OE T.10.II.12)

However, our ego wishes seem to oppose God's will. We have all kinds of thoughts and ideas about what we want and need, and while they are called idle wishes, which have no power at all, (W.73.1.4) they nevertheless have made this whole world of illusion! In the illusion, our idle wishes do have power. They lack the power of creation, but they do have the power to miscreate, though "**They make nothing that is real.**" (W.73.1.7) While idle wishes have made the whole world, it is not real, no matter how solid it seems to be, because of the beliefs we hold about it. It is still nothing, but because we have invested the ego with the power of our minds, our minds give power to the illusion. As we withdraw belief from this world and instead invest our belief in remembering our Oneness with God, we will awaken from this dream.

"Idle wishes and grievances are partners or co-makers in picturing the world you see. The wishes of the ego gave rise to it, and the ego's need for grievances, which are necessary to maintain it, peoples it with figures that seem to attack you and call for 'righteous' judgment." (W.73.2.1-2) It is a world of special relationships where we traffic in grievances. Our grievances maintain the separation. We see our brothers and ourselves, not as we are as the One Son, united in creation, but instead as characters in the dream, trading grievances back and forth with each other. Of course, we each see ourselves as the main character in the dream with others playing supporting roles.

Grievances tend to escalate as we battle each other, giving as little as possible to get as much as possible for ourselves. We are always protecting ourselves against further attack with our defenses. Guilt needs a target. That is why we have specific people in our play on whom to project our guilt. Some of those people in our dream we seem to love and others we think we hate or want to ignore, but either way, we do a dance of passing guilt, attack, and defense back and forth with each other. That is why Jesus says that we all traffic in guilt and are very good at it, but the cost to us is that when we do this, we "**do not know your brothers or your Self.**" (W.73.2.5) That is a high cost we seem willing to pay in order to keep our grievances!

The ego needs grievances, "**which are necessary to maintain it [the world].**" (W.73.2.2) Grievances are the oxygen of the ego, in that it needs grievances in order to thrive. It is where our

addiction to conflict and drama comes from. It is how we keep others separate from us and make them the sinners deserving punishment, so we can imagine ourselves as free of guilt. They are expected to serve our specialness, and when they don't meet our needs, we judge them and consider it "**righteous**" to do so. (W.73.2.2)

Everyone in our dream, including ourselves, seems to move about attacking each other and retaliating at the bequest of the ego, always trying to get something from the other. If it were not for these characters in the dream, or middlemen as they are called here, we would meet as holy Sons of God in the light that unites us all as one Self. Yet as long as we hold grievances against our brothers, we will not know them. We will not see their reality as the Christ. Instead of seeing their innocence, we use them to make bargains so we can get what we want from them, hold them to our expectations, and demand reciprocity in turn; and with each exchange, our separation from each other is reinforced. That is why special relationships all deteriorate over time as the mountain of grievances grows. When we commit to healing and wholeness, our relationships become holy, and rather than deteriorating, they become better and better over time.

Today, we are asked to try to reach a place that is not Heaven, but the light of Heaven shines on it. This is the real world. It is "**the world that is in accordance with your will. The light is in it because it does not oppose the Will of God.**" (W.73.4.1-2) This is a world that reflects the reality of Heaven. The world is just an outward picture of our inward condition. When we find the light within, we will see a world of light without.

How do we get there? There is only one answer. We get there through forgiveness. Forgiveness is about accepting Atonement (the correction/healing) for ourselves by choosing to dismiss the ego, refusing to listen to it and instead, aligning with our true will, which is God's Will. "**Forgiveness lifts the darkness, reasserts your will, and lets you look upon a world of light.**" (W.73.5.4) The light is not in the world but is in our minds. What keeps the ego going is simply our willingness to listen to it. When we turn to the ego, we really don't see each other. We don't see our brothers' reality. What we see is an image of what we have made of them, which is a projection of the guilt in our minds. "**We have repeatedly emphasized that the barrier of grievances is easily passed, and cannot stand between you and your salvation.**" (W.73.5.5) It is just a thought away! Do I really want the hell I put myself in when I hold grievances? How insane is it to keep the anger and suffer when we can choose to change our minds and bring our insane wishes to the Holy Spirit?

How this dynamic has been set up by the ego has been hidden from us, which is why Jesus is bringing it to our awareness so we can choose against it when we see it for what it is. If our minds are the projectors, when we load the projector with the ego tape, we see a darkened world of guilt, fear, anger, attack; but if we change the tape and choose the one the Holy Spirit offers, which is just pure light, the world we see will be entirely different. We change what is in the projector by releasing grievances through forgiveness. We turn to the Holy Spirit and ask for His interpretation in place of our own. We take the hand of Jesus as he invites us to do, and with willingness, we bring to awareness our judgments and release them. It means that we give up our justifications for seeing our brothers as guilty.

We release the hold the ego seems to have on us. We recognize that however powerful ego wishes seem to be and however powerful our desire for revenge and attack may be, we can make a shift through forgiveness. This choice is available to us. Before we stepped on this path, we were not aware this choice was available because we were not aware of the right mind. We don't have to listen to the ego. We will be very motivated to make this choice when we see how much peace and

happiness is available through forgiveness and how much suffering we experience until we make this choice.

"Your picture of the world can only mirror what is within." (W.73.5.1) As we shift from grievances, which show us a "darkened world," (W.73.5.3) to forgiveness, the darkness is lifted. (W.73.5.4) We can see this in our everyday experience. Whether we talk about a movie, a book, a person, or a situation, we all have a different "take" on it, and we argue about the correctness of our perception. Yet all anyone is seeing is what is in their own minds. We are seeing our own inner world projected onto the screen. Now it seems to be on the outside. As we change our inner world, the outer world of perception shifts, and what is reflected is what the Course calls the real world, seen from the perspective of a healed mind. Forgiveness replaces the world we don't want with the one we do want, which is one where our will is joined with God's.

Jesus puts a very blunt question to us when he says, "**Do you really want to be in hell? Do you really want to weep and suffer and die?**" (W.73.5.7-8) Who would ever choose that? Yet we have chosen it. Now with every temptation to choose hell, we can change our minds. When we listen to the ego, we continue to hold out hope that something in the world will still bring us happiness and give us what we think we want. We continue to think we can exert our idle wishes and find the answers for our lives. We continue to think attack and grievances will get us something of value. Jesus urges us to "**Forget the ego's arguments which seek to prove all this is really Heaven.**" (W.73.6.1) As long as we seek for things in the world that we think will make us happy and follow the ego's plan for salvation, we will only suffer. We all want to be happy, but we are following the wrong teacher. Oh yes, we will experience moments of happiness, but they never last. In fact, they are always tinged with the fear that they won't last. As has been said many times---the ego teaches us to "**seek but do not find.**" (T.16.V.6.5) (ACIM OE T.16.VI.48)

The question is, do we want to oppose God's Will for us, which is for our happiness? "**It is not the purpose of an alien power, thrust upon you unwillingly.**" (W.73.9.2) It requires that we see how wrong we have been in thinking we would want something different from what God Wills for us by following our own guidance. When we see how unhappy this has made us, our willingness to join with the Holy Spirit in our minds is reinforced, as we tell ourselves "**with gentle firmness and quiet certainty: I will there be light. Let me behold the light that reflects God's Will and mine.**" (W.73.10.1-3) In other words, I am determined to release my grievances so I can behold the light in my brother and embrace him in the love we share as one Son. I do so by letting these grievances go "**instead of cherishing them and hiding them in darkness.**" (W.73.11.7) We must take responsibility for our self-hatred and look at it with honesty and courage, rather than defending and pretending we are innocent victims of attack. All we are seeing is our own guilt "out there."

This Lesson is helping us to see that when we choose the ego, we are choosing against our own happiness. Our healing depends on being willing to see the Christ in everyone. By getting in touch with the light, we can bring it to everyone whom we meet or think about today. When you are tempted to hold a grievance of any kind today, whether in the form of worry, anger, frustration, impatience, or anything that crosses your mind and takes away your peace, just apply today's idea. Bring your ego thoughts, which kill your joy and peace, to the memory of God's Love within.

Love and blessings, Sarah
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