

## 12. Peace is a condition of Knowledge

### Peace of God

1. Nothing real can be threatened, nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God. Intro to ACIM
2. The voice for God is always quiet, because it speaks of peace. Yet peace is stronger than war, because it heals. T5.II.7
3. Think not you understand ANYTHING, until you pass the test of perfect peace, for peace and understanding GO TOGETHER, and never can be found alone. T14.XI.12
4. Join me in the IDEA of peace, for, in ideas, minds CAN communicate. T15.VI.7
5. To fulfill the Will of God perfectly is the only joy and peace that can be fully KNOWN, because it is the only function that can be FULLY EXPERIENCED. When this is accomplished, then there IS no other experience. But the WISH for other experience will block this, because God's Will CANNOT be forced upon you, being an experience of total WILLINGNESS. T8.III.2
6. When a situation has been dedicated WHOLLY to truth, peace is inevitable. Its attainment is the criterion by which the wholeness of the dedication can be safely assumed. T19.I.1

### Ego wants War

1. Peace is the ego's greatest enemy, because according to ITS interpretation of reality, war is the guarantee of its survival. T5.III.8
2. Every response to the ego is a call to war, and war does deprive you of peace. Yet in this war there is no opponent. This is the reinterpretation of reality that you must make to secure peace, and the only one you need ever make. Those whom you perceive as opponents are part of your peace, which you are giving up by attacking them. How can you have what you give up? You share to have, but you do not give it up yourself. When you give up peace, you are excluding yourself from it. This is a condition so alien to the Kingdom that you cannot understand the state that prevails within it. T8.I.3

### Specialness leads to conflict

1. It is given you to know the truth, and NOT to seek for it outside yourself. No-one who comes here but must still have hope, some lingering illusion, or some dream that there is something OUTSIDE of himself that will bring happiness and peace to him. If everything is

IN him, this cannot be so. And therefore, BY coming, he denies the truth about himself, and seeks for something MORE than everything, as if a part of it were separated off, and found where all the REST of it is NOT. This is the purpose he bestows upon the body; that it seek for what he lacks, and give him what would make himself complete.

T29.VII.1,2

2. The separation was not a loss of perfection, but a failure in COMMUNICATION. A harsh and strident form of communication arose as the ego's voice. It could not shatter the peace of God, but it COULD shatter YOURS. God did not blot it out, because to eradicate it would be to attack it. Being questioned, He did not question. He merely gave the Answer. God's answer IS your teacher. T6IV.12

3. You who prefer specialness to sanity could not obtain it in your right minds. You were at peace until you asked for special favor. And God did not give it. For the request was alien to Him, and you could not ask this of a Father who truly loved His Son. Therefore, you made of Him an UNloving father, demanding of Him what only such a father COULD give. And the peace of God's Son was shattered, for he no longer understood his Father. He feared what he had made, but still more, did he fear his REAL Father, having attacked his glorious equality WITH HIM. T13.III.10

4. Peace in the world begins with peace in the home.

SB

### **We are at war against ourselves**

1. The war against yourself is almost over. The journey's end is at the place of peace. Would you not now accept the peace offered you here? This "enemy" you fought as an intruder on your peace is here transformed, before your sight, into the giver of your peace. Your "enemy" was God Himself, to Whom all conflict, triumph and attack of any kind are all unknown. He loves you perfectly, completely and eternally. T23.I.4

2. The war against yourself was undertaken to teach the Son of God that he is not himself, and *not* his Father's Son. For this, the memory of his Father must be forgotten. It *is* forgotten in the body's life, and if you think you are a body, you will believe you have forgotten it. Yet truth can never be forgotten by itself, and you have not forgotten what you are. Only a strange illusion of yourself, a wish to triumph over what you are, remembers not. T23.I.5

3. The war against yourself is but the battle of two illusions, struggling to make them different from each other, in the belief the one that conquers will be true. There *is* no conflict between them and

the truth. Nor are they different from each other. Both are not true. And so it matters not what form they take. What made them is insane, and they remain part of what made them. Madness holds out no menace to reality, and has no influence upon it. Illusions cannot triumph over truth, nor can they threaten it in any way. T23.I.6

4. One illusion about yourself can battle with another, yet the war of two illusions is a state where nothing happens. There is no victor and there is no victory. And truth stands radiant, apart from conflict, untouched and quiet in the peace of God. T23.I.7

5. Illusion meets illusion; truth, itself. The meeting of illusions leads to war. Peace, looking on itself, extends itself. War is the condition in which fear is born, and grows and seeks to dominate. Peace is the state where love abides, and seeks to share itself. Conflict and peace are opposites. Where one abides the other cannot be; where either goes the other disappears. So is the memory of God obscured in minds that have become illusions' battleground. Yet far beyond this senseless war it shines, ready to be remembered when you side with peace. T23.I.12

6. When a brother is sick, it is because HE IS NOT ASKING FOR PEACE, and therefore he does not know he HAS it. The ACCEPTANCE of peace is the DENIAL of illusion, and sickness IS an illusion. Yet every Son of God has the power to deny illusions ANYWHERE in the kingdom, merely by denying them completely in himself. T10.III.7

7. Would you rather be right than happy? Wkbk 342

3. I WANT peace. Take away the 'I' and the 'WANT' and what remains is peace. SB

7. Live in peace, alike in cold and heat, pleasure and pain, situated equally well in praise and blame, honor and dishonor; desirable and the undesirable, meet all situations with equanimity. Bhagavad Gita

### **The Obstacles to Peace**

1. As peace extends from deep inside yourself to embrace all the Sonship and give it rest, it will encounter many obstacles. Some of them you will try to impose. Others will seem to arise from elsewhere; from your brothers, and from various aspects of the world outside. Yet peace will gently cover them, extending past completely unencumbered.

- A. *The First Obstacle: The Desire to Get Rid of It*
  - i. *The Attraction of Guilt*
- B. *The Second Obstacle: The Belief the Body is Valuable for What It Offers*
  - i. *The Attraction of Pain*
- C. *The Third Obstacle: The Attraction of Death*
- D. *The Fourth Obstacle: The Fear of God* T19.IV.1

**Perfect equals are at peace**

1. You who are NOT at war, must look for brothers and RECOGNIZE all you see AS brothers, because ONLY EQUALS ARE AT PEACE. Because God's equal Sons have everything, they CANNOT compete. But if they perceive ANY of their brothers as anything OTHER than their perfect equals, the IDEA of competition HAS entered their minds. Do not underestimate your need to be vigilant AGAINST this idea, because ALL conflicts come FROM it. T7.III.e

2. You could accept peace NOW, for everyone you meet, and offer them perfect freedom from ALL illusions, BECAUSE YOU HEARD. But have no other gods before Him, or you will NOT hear. T10.III.8

3. Look with peace upon your brothers, and God will come rushing into your heart, in gratitude for your gift to Him. T10.V.7

4. Accepting your mission to PROJECT peace, you will FIND it. T12.VII.11

5. Peace, then, be unto everyone who becomes a teacher of peace. For peace is the acknowledgment of perfect purity, from which no-one is excluded. Within its holy circle, is everyone whom God created as His Son. Joy is its unifying attribute, with no-one left outside, to suffer guilt alone. The power of God draws everyone to its safe embrace of love and union. Stand quietly within this circle, and attract all tortured minds to join with you, in the safety of its peace and holiness. Abide with me within it, as teachers of Atonement, NOT of guilt. T14.V.8

6. To have peace, teach peace to learn it. MT6.VI

7. Call forth in everyone only the remembrance of God, and of the Heaven that is in him. For where you would have your brother be, there will you think you are. Hear not his appeal to hell and littleness, but only his call for Heaven and greatness. Forget not that his call is yours, and answer him with me. God's power is forever on the side of His host, for it protects only the peace in which He dwells. Lay not littleness before His holy altar, which rises above the stars and reaches even to Heaven, because of what is given it. T15.III.12

8. You were created to be and have everything. God Gave you all there is. And to be sure you could not lose it, did He ALSO give the same to every living thing as well. And thus IS every living thing a part of you as of Himself. T29.VII.9

9. Do you not see the opposite of frailty and weakness is sinlessness? Innocence is strength, and nothing else is strong. The sinless cannot fear, for sin of any kind is weakness. The show of strength attack would use to cover frailty conceals it not, for how can the unreal be hidden? No one is strong who has an enemy, and no one can attack unless he thinks he has. Belief in enemies is therefore the belief in weakness, and what is weak is not the Will of God. Being opposed to it, it is God's "enemy." And God is feared as an opposing will. T23.in.1

10. The peace of mind which the advanced teachers of God experience is largely due to their perfect honesty. TM2.1-2

### **Peace is a prerequisite for knowledge**

1. Knowledge is not the motivation for learning this course. Peace is. This is the prerequisite for knowledge only because those who are in conflict are not peaceful, and peace is the condition of knowledge because it is the condition of the Kingdom. Knowledge can be restored only when you meet its conditions. This is not a bargain made by God, Who makes no bargains. It is merely the result of your misuse of His laws on behalf of an imaginary will that is not His. Knowledge *is* His Will. If you are opposing His Will, how can you have knowledge? I have told you what knowledge offers you, but perhaps you do not yet regard this as wholly desirable. If you did you would not be so ready to throw it away when the ego asks for your allegiance. T8.I.1

2. The memory of God comes to the quiet mind. It cannot come where there is conflict, for a mind at war against itself remembers not eternal gentleness. T23.I.1

3. Be certain that it is impossible God and the ego, or yourself and it, will ever meet. You seem to meet, and make your strange alliances on grounds that have no meaning. For your beliefs converge upon the body, the ego's chosen home, which you believe is yours. You meet at a mistake; an error in your self-appraisal. The ego joins with an illusion of yourself you share with it. And yet illusions cannot join. They are the same, and they are nothing. Their joining lies in nothingness; two are as meaningless as one or as a thousand. The ego joins with nothing, being nothing. The victory it seeks is meaningless as is itself. T23.I.3

4. Forget not that the motivation for this course is the attainment and the KEEPING of the state of peace. Given this state, the mind is quiet, and the condition in which God is remembered is attained. It is not necessary to tell Him what to do. He will not fail. Where He can enter, there He is already. And can it be He can NOT enter where He wills to be? T21.In.1

### **Peace on Earth**

God transforms the world through the transformation of our hearts.

1. The holiest of all the spots on earth is where an ancient hatred has become a present love. T26.IX.6

2. Do you not think the world needs peace as much as you do? Do you not want to give it to the world as much as you want to receive it? For unless you do, you will NOT receive it. T8.IV.4  
Where is the world? Within

5. If a sufficient number of people become truly miracle-minded quickly, the shortening process can be almost immeasurable. But it is essential that these individuals free themselves from fear sooner than would ordinarily be the case, because they MUST emerge from basic conflict if they are to bring peace to the minds of others. T2.VIII.2

6. Salvation of the world depends on me. Here is the statement that will one day take all arrogance away from every mind. Here is the thought of true humility, which holds no function as your own but that which has been given you. It offers your acceptance of a part assigned to you, without insisting on another role. It does not judge your proper role. It but acknowledges the Will of God is done on earth as well as Heaven. It unites all wills on earth in Heaven's plan to save the world, restoring it to Heaven's peace. Wkbk.186

Together we can save the world. We have always been wholly spirit. Thus, we are limitless. And being limitless, our thoughts are joined with God's forever and ever. We share God's Will, and bring our thoughts to still deluded minds. We are forever one, because we are as God created us. We begin the journey back by setting out together and gather in all our brothers and sisters as we continue together.

*~Let there be peace on earth~*