

**Notes on Chapter 3 from  
A Course in Miracles**  
with Jon Mundy

**THE INNOCENT PERCEPTION**

The title of this section is "*The Innocent Perception*." It might, with equal ease, be called, *True Perception, Perfect Vision or Spiritual Vision*. Innocent Perception or Spiritual Vision "*literally cannot see error and merely looks for Atonement*." T-2.III.4:1.

***Innocence or true perception means that you never misperceive and always see truly.***

*More simply, it means that you never see what does not exist, and always see what does.*

T-3.II.2:5-6

Can you imagine anything nicer than seeing only truth? This means we never see hell. We only see Heaven. In Heaven there is no such thing as a victim and a victimizer. There is no such thing as a winner and loser. There are no saints and sinners.

After my 1976 encounter with death, all I could do was to sit and stare. My mind had literally, as they say, "been blown." ***I could not speak as I realized that anything I said would be a construct, that is, an attempt to put into words something which did not fit into words.*** At the same time, everything had about it an expectant shine. Everything was amazingly beautiful.

The process of judging returned soon enough after the experience. For several hours, however, I could not talk. There was a dog present and all I wanted to do was to hold the dog. Being non-judgmental, the dog seemed to understand better than anyone what was happening. As the days passed, I could feel "the socialization process" pulling me back to the world of judgment and perception. I was blessed, for a moment, to be incapable of judgment and I saw how even tiny judgments had an effect.

***Judgment is the process on which perception lasts.***

T-3.VI.2:2

***Consciousness, the level of perception, was the first split introduced into the mind after the separation, making the mind a perceiver rather than a creator. Consciousness is correctly identified as the domain of the ego.***

T-3.IV.2:1-2

I did my master's thesis on the works of the French mystic Father, Pierre Teilhard de Charin and for several years thereafter, I taught courses on his works at the New School University in NYC. Teilhard was a deeply spiritual man, whose writings were forbidden publication by the Catholic Church. This made him, of course, a very famous man. He perceived the whole of consciousness evolving over time to a stage beyond what we think of as human consciousness to a higher spiritual sphere.

Heaven is one - there are no levels and degrees in Heaven. Consciousness *is the first split introduced into the mind after the separation*. To be consciousness means there is a perceiver and a perceived -- a self and an "other." There is me and there is "something" which is not me *and in my judgment -- we are not equal*. To be conscious means to be conscious of something. This is all a part of the Wholeness of God. The preamble to UNESCO, the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization begins with the phrase, "War's being in the minds of men." If wars begin in the mind of men, where must wars end?

**Perception Involves Selectivity**

Consciousness is the world of duality, and thus, the world of perception. Non-duality would be a state of oneness. Perception is a belief in "better and worse," "more" and "less," "pretty and ugly," "pleasant and unpleasant," "good and bad." "black and white." As Shakespeare tells us "nothing is good or bad but thinking makes it so." The ego is, if you will, a "fault finder," a "name caller." It identifies what it sees on the inside or the outside as bad. Judgment is the problem.

***The ego analyzes; the Holy Spirit accepts.***

*The appreciation of wholeness comes only through acceptance, for to analyze means to break down or to separate out.*

T-11.V.13:1-2

Perception is a continual process of accepting and rejecting, organizing and reorganizing, shifting and changing. Evaluation is an essential part of perception, because judgments are necessary in order to select. True perception has no limits. In true perception there are no divisions. True perception, thus, knows that sin does not exist.

***In the presence of knowledge judgment is automatically suspended. This process enables re-cognition to replace perception.***

T-3.VI.3:6

What we are “re-cognizing” is God, Heaven, Home, Wholeness.

**Perception is partial awareness.  
Knowledge is whole.**

**Projection makes perception and without judgments perception is impossible.** When there is no judgment, then only God is. There are no parts and no degrees in Heaven. Forgiveness heals the perception of separation as there is nothing to be judged against. Spirit knows God completely and you are Spirit.

**Forgiveness literally transforms vision,**  
*and lets you see the real world reaching quietly and gently across chaos, removing all illusions that had twisted your perception and fixed it on the past.*  
*The smallest leaf becomes a thing of wonder, and a blade of grass a sign of God's perfection.*  
T-17.II.6:2-3

### **Perfect Presence**

When a leaf becomes a thing of wonder and a blade of grass a sign of God's perfection – you are having a mystical experience. There is no judgment in a mystical experience. There is no judgment in “perfect presence.” If there is no judgment, there is no past. There is, therefore, nothing to be judgmental about. Forgiveness is a “reflection” of the oneness of Heaven. Heaven is a state which is totally unified. In a Holy Relationship, we do not perceive someone else's welfare being separate from our own.

***Judgment is not an attribute of God.***  
T-2.VIII.3:3

***Beyond perception there is no judgment.***  
T-3.IV.1:3

**Perception is an addiction.  
Judgment is an addiction.**  
Caught as we are in perception  
it's a very difficult habit to break.

A new student came to me one day and said, “I'm beginning to see how incredibly judgmental I am.” And I said, “That's great! You're getting it.”

***Judgment is but a toy, a whim, the senseless means to play the idle game of death in your imagination.***  
***But vision sets all things right, bringing them gently within the kindly sway of Heaven's laws.***  
*What if you recognized this world is an hallucination?  
What if you really understood you made it up?*  
T-20.VIII.7:1-3

We make up the world, by throwing our judgments on to it. Judgment always imprisons.

Lesson 347 from the Course says  
***Anger must come from judgment.***  
***Judgment is the weapon I would use against myself,***  
***To keep the miracle away from me.***

## **I. Atonement without Sacrifice**

### **What Is The Atonement?**

At the time of my ordination into the United Methodist Ministry in 1970, thinking that the United Methodist church was open-minded, I raised a question concerning the nature of the atonement. I was thinking it would be a good opportunity to attain great clarity. Rather than providing, as I had hoped, an opportunity for a “play of ideas,” my question cut into the heart of traditional Christian theology and according to the Board of Ordained Ministry, it raised questions concerning my preparedness for ministry. I was ordained but with some reluctance. Nineteen years later I quit.



According to traditional Christian theology, the atonement is defined as the effect of Jesus' horrific suffering and dying in redeeming mankind. I have a book of illustrations for use by Christian ministers. It has twelve illustrations of what the Atonement is. Each illustration describes the agony of a suffering, bleeding, dying Jesus on the cross, a *sacrifice* he makes because of our sins. Being washed in blood, sounds like a messy affair. Not exactly the kind of thing a God of Love would give his children.

*I have been correctly referred to as "the lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world," but those who represent the lamb as blood-stained do not understand the meaning of the symbol.*  
*Correctly understood, it is a very simple symbol that speaks of my innocence.*  
T-3.I.5:1-4

## **Vicarious Salvation**

According to the upside down, backward thinking of Christian theology, an all wise and loving God *killed* his only Son who was innocent because I am innately sinful. We are saved because Jesus was killed. How could Love (God) devise such a horrible plan? Once, at a Lenten retreat for Methodist ministers, the minister, leading the workshop, handed each of us spike nails and asked us to contemplate the agony of Jesus on the cross.

Christianity uses a cross as its symbol, an instrument of torture and death; the Catholic Church puts a bleeding body on the cross. What we have is vicarious salvation. According to traditional Christian theology, we are saved not because we are able to see what Jesus saw or do what he did. We are saved *because we believe* he suffered and died for us. It was this Christian doctrine I was struggling with at the time of my ordination.

My consternation over this doctrine was taken not as a play of ideas, it was seen as a question of my readiness for ministry. Fortunately, the Course clarifies this for all of us.

***The crucifixion did not establish the Atonement;  
the resurrection did.***

T-3.I.1:2

**The atonement is God's Plan  
for the undoing of the ego.**

The Atonement is the means by which the idea of the separation is healed. It will be completed when everyone has completed their part in the Atonement through the process of total forgiveness. What the atonement says is – the separation never occurred. You cannot leave God save within a dream, and dreams are not real. Dreams are passing fantasies.

Nothing real can be destroyed. Jesus' body could be killed but that which is ephemeral is never real in the first place. According to traditional Christian Theology God **permitted** and even **encouraged** one of His Sons to suffer because he was good.

***In milder forms a parent says,  
"This hurts me more than it  
hurts you," and feels exonerated in beating a child.  
Can you believe our Father really thinks this way?***

*It is so essential that all such thinking  
be dispelled that we must be sure that  
nothing of this kind remains in your mind.*

***I was not "punished" because "you" were bad.***

T-3.I.2:7-10

**Innocence Has Everything and it Cannot Project.**

We love to look into the eyes of our dogs and cats simply because of the deep level of innocence we can see inside. Pets can be such incredible comforters. We love to look into the eyes of infants and the eyes of "the beloved." Lovers can look longer and deeper into each other's eyes than anyone else.

I once witnessed this, sitting on a bus which was taking us from an airport to the car parking lot, two young lovers sitting directly across from each other, not talking – staring into each other's eyes without stopping and without talking for the entire trip of about twenty minutes.

*Innocence is not a partial attribute.*

*It is not real "until" it is total.*

T-3.II.2:1-2

***Innocent or true perception means  
that you never misperceive and always see truly.***

***More simply, it means that you never see  
what does not exist, and always see what does.***

T-3.II.2:5-6

**Innocence just sees.**

*Innocence is wisdom because it is unaware of evil,  
and evil does not exist*

T-3.I.7:4

## **The Baby and the Snake**

Years ago, back before cell phones, I read a story of a baby who was left alone on a blanket in the backyard while her mother ran into the house to answer the phone. While the mother was gone, a nonpoisonous snake crawled up onto the blanket, and the child, in his innocence, thought it was a toy. He picked it up and was found shaking it like a rattle when the mother returned.

Jesus is speaking in the next few sentences:

***God does not believe in retribution.***

***His Mind does not create that way.***

*He does not hold your "evil" deeds against you.*

*Is it likely that He would hold them against me?*

T-3.I.3:4-7

*. . . the Bible says that a deep sleep fell upon Adam,  
and nowhere is there reference to his waking up.  
The world has not yet experienced any comprehensive  
reawakening or rebirth.  
Such a rebirth is impossible as long as you continue to  
project or miscreate.*

T-2.I.3:6-8

Only in our deepest sleep, could we ever dream of being outside of Heaven. There is nothing of this world worthy of our keeping, except love itself.

### **Story Time**

There is a story about a man who prays fervently every night for a visit from God. Finally, God answers him and asks him what he wants? He asks God if he can bring something with him to Heaven when he dies. God says, "No. It simply isn't possible." The man pleads and begs and finally God says, "Okay you can bring one suitcase. That is it." The day comes and his bag is and ready to go.

The man shows up at the Pearly Gates with suitcase in hand. When St. Peter sees the suitcase, he says, "I'm sorry but you can't bring anything into Heaven. "But," the man says, "I have permission from God." St. Peter is doubtful but when he goes to see God, God confirms that the man has permission but St. Peter must look and see, what is inside the suitcase. St. Peter tells the man that he must open the suitcase. The man obeys, opens the suitcase and St. Peter looks and seeing several bars of gold he says, "You brought paving stones!"

### **The Authority Problem**

God did not kick Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. We left on our own accord. This is the basis of the authority problem. We actually ran away from Home. God does not come chasing after us. He does not chastise us. He did, however, send the Holy Spirit into our minds to guide us back Home.

God does not live within the confines of space/time nor any "form." We may use the symbol of "father" or "mother" for God but God is neither father nor mother. God is not a person. God is not symbolic. It is impossible to define God because God is beyond the limitations of words. God *IS* Life and God *IS* Love and Spirit and power and force and energy and truth and so much more we cannot define. God cannot be delimited to words.

## **II. Miracles as True Perception**

*No one can serve two masters;  
for either he will hate the one and love the other,  
or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.  
You cannot serve God and mammon.*  
Matthew 6:24

## **It is impossible to follow two masters.**

*Mammon* means riches or material wealth. The quote above is from the King James Version of the Bible. Later translations interpret mammon as "money." Mammon, however, means more than money. Mammon is the world and everything in it. We cannot serve God and the world. We can't buy into the illusions of the world and follow Spirit at the same time. Trying to do so means living with a split mind. Our thinking then is **erratic until a firm commitment to following the guidance of the Holy Spirit** is made. However,

### ***A firm commitment to darkness or nothingness, however, is impossible.***

*No one has ever lived who has not experienced  
"some" light and "some" thing. No one, therefore,  
is able to deny truth totally, even if he thinks he can.*  
T-3.II.1:6-8

The only way to be happy is to make a commitment to follow the voice of God (the Holy Spirit) in our lives. Everything else will leave us feeling that something is amiss.

### **True Perception is Vision Free of Judgment.**

*If nothing but the truth exists, right-minded seeing  
cannot see anything but perfection.*  
T-3.II.3:5

Only what we create in alignment with the Will of God exists.

***Because their hearts are pure, the innocent defend true  
perception instead of defending themselves against it.***  
T-3.II.5:8

***The way to correct distortions is to withdraw your faith  
in them and invest it only in what is true.***  
T-3.II.6:1

### **What Is It That We Place Our Faith In?**

We either place our faith in the ego or in the Holy Spirit. Placing faith in the ego is always a disaster. The Course calls this "faithlessness." The ego is not real, therefore, putting faith in the ego is putting our faith in nothing. Placing our faith in the Holy Spirit leads us Home again to God. The Course calls this "faithfulness." It is faithfulness because we are placing our faith in something which is real.

### III. Perception versus Knowledge

**Perception is a mirror—not a fact** (W-304.1:3).

**Perception is temporary.**

**Perception** is the process by which we give meaning and value to what we see, hear, or think. It is a reflection of our thinking.

The ego limits perception to bodies and to the things of the world. It defines or concretizes the world.

**Perception** is a process of accepting and rejecting, shifting and changing.

Perception is also a choice.

Practicing the Course *purifies* perception by helping us remove the blocks (the teachings of fear) to an awareness of Love's presence.

***For eyes and ears are senses without sense,  
and what they see and hear they but report.***

*It is not they that hear and see, but you, who put together every jagged piece, each senseless scrap and shred of evidence, and make a witness to the world you want.*

T.5.V.6-7

Our senses may pick up on the world but our judgment makes sense of the information our senses bring our way.

**Knowledge**, which comes from our True Mind (the Mind of God), is eternal, impersonal, **beyond subject and object**, and the result of revelation (T-3.III.5:10).

If someone asks you if you are in love and you say you don't know, you're not. To know is to be certain.

Knowledge is direct contact with God.

Knowledge transcends time and abolishes fear.

It is the experience of Oneness; the experience of essence or being. It is "illumination," and an insight into essence. It is stable, unchanging, and free of conflict.

***All your difficulties stem from the fact that  
you do not recognize yourself, your brother or God.***

***To "re-cognize" means to "know again,"  
implying that you knew before.***

*You can see in many ways because perception involves interpretation, and this means that it is not whole or consistent.*

T-3.III.2:1-3

***Knowledge is the result of revelation  
and induces only thought.***

***Even in its most spiritualized form  
perception involves the body.***

*Knowledge comes from the altar within  
and is timeless because it is certain.*

***To perceive the truth is not the same as to know it.***

T-3.III.5:10-13

***Knowledge preceded both perception and time,  
and will ultimately replace them.***

*That is the real meaning of "Alpha and Omega,  
the beginning and the end,"  
and "Before Abraham was I am."*

T-3.III.6:4-5

Jesus said, "Before Abraham was I am." He did not say "Before Abraham was I was," that would be something which happened in time. Christ always has been and will be timeless.

*If you attack error in another, you will hurt yourself.  
You cannot know your brother when you attack him.*

***Attack is always made upon a stranger.***

*You are making him a stranger by misperceiving him,  
and so you cannot know him.*

T-3.III.7:1-4

### IV. Error and the Ego

***You are also incapable of knowledge  
because you can still perceive lovelessly.  
Perception did not exist until the separation  
introduced degrees, aspects and intervals.***

*Spirit has no levels, and all conflict  
arises from the concept of levels.*

T-3.IV.4:3-6

Sometimes Jesus hits us between the eyes with a "2x4" of truth. ***Who among us does not, from time-to-time perceive lovelessly?*** We make a mess out of things when in our guilt-ridden minds we perceiving the dark side. The truth is, everything is the same. Everyone has within them the same Spirit. If we can't see it, you can be sure we're working within the framework of the ego.

### What is the Ego?

***The ego is a wrong-minded attempt  
to perceive yourself as you wish to be,  
rather than as you are.***

*Yet you can know yourself only as you are,  
because that is all you can be sure of.  
Everything else "is" open to question.*

T-3.IV.2:3-5

and

***The ego is the questioning aspect of the post-separation  
self, which was made rather than created.***

***It is capable of asking questions but not of perceiving  
meaningful answers, because these would involve  
knowledge and cannot be perceived.***

T-3.IV.3:1-2

True Perception = Innocent Perception = Clear Perception

Never attack an ego. Ego's always attack back.

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Never wrestle with a pig.  
You'll get dirty and the pig will enjoy it.

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**Knowledge cannot be perceived.  
It can only be known through direct revelation.  
Knowledge = One-mindedness**

Only one-mindedness can be without confusion. One mindedness is the non-dualistic world of Heaven's Love. In Heaven, we do not have God and Christ. There is no creator and created. There is no "place" where God ends and the Son begins.

A separated or divide mind is, by definition, confused. It does not know what it wants or what it is. We did not and cannot create ourselves. We can, however, be instruments in our own healing. We can be engaged in the process of "working" our way back Home.

**Right-mindedness** is not to be confused with Knowing. Right-mindedness is, however, certainly headed in the right direction because "right-mindedness" is the process of awakening from the dream. Knowing is applicable with right perception and right perception is necessary before God can communicate directly with us.

**Ultimately**, there is no right mind and no wrong mind. There is only One Mind. Right mind and wrong mind is still dualistic thinking. Still, we need Right-minded thinking to help us awaken from the dream, and thus, help us get back to Oneness.

Let's remember that:

**Projection makes perception  
and perception is a choice.**

There are two kinds of projection.

1. **Condemnation** -- judges the world as bad.

This is the realm blame, denunciation, disapproval, criticism, war, attack, and destruction.

2. **Extension** -- loves everything which is seen.

This is the Holy Spirit or Christ's vision in the form of forgiveness or peace.

Most of the time, when the Course talks about perception it is not talking about "true" perception since perception involves uncertainty. To choose to separate is to choose to perceive. The way out of ambiguity is true or clear perception.

***The ability to perceive made the body possible,  
because you must perceive "something"  
and "with" something.***

T-3.IV.6:1

***I was a man who remembered spirit and its knowledge.***

*I demonstrated both the powerlessness  
of the body and the power of the mind.*

.....

*By uniting my will with that of my Creator,*

*I naturally remembered spirit and its real purpose.*

T-3.IV.7:3,5-6.

***I cannot choose for you,  
but I can help you make your own right choice.  
"Many are called but few are chosen" should be,  
"All are called but few choose to listen."***

T-3.IV.7:11-12

This passage harkens back to Chapter 2:

***If I intervened between your thoughts and their results,***

***I would be tampering with  
a basic law of cause and effect;  
the most fundamental law there is.***

*I would hardly help you  
if I depreciated the power of your own thinking*

T-2.VII.1:4-5



**Pay Attention**

So much depends upon decision-making. We are the choosers and we must decide. The good news is that while Jesus cannot decide for God for us, he can help us make the right choice if we are willing to pay attention. "All are called but few choose to listen." What matters is our choosing to listen.

## V. Beyond Perception

Perception is intrinsically judgmental. Prior to the separation, there was no sense of difference.

*Think of the love of animals for their offspring,  
and the need they feel to protect them.*

*That is because they regard them as part of themselves.  
No one dismisses something he considers part of himself.*

T-4.II.4:1-3

Knowing is pure, and therefore, not open to interpretation. Ingenious thinking is always open to interpretation. The ego is ingenious, clever, cunning, resourceful, and imaginative. *Clever, cunning resourceful* and *imaginative* are words which never appear in the Course. They all describe functions of the ego, not Spirit.

### Prayer

*Prayer is the medium of miracles  
a means of communication of the created with the  
Creator. Through prayer love is received,  
and through miracles love is expressed.*

Principle Number 11 from the 50 Miracles Principles

*... the only meaningful prayer is for forgiveness,  
because those who have been forgiven have everything.*

T-3.V.6:3

To accept forgiveness is to free ourselves from guilt.

*Prayer is an illusion because there is no need  
for a ladder to reach a place we never left.*

The Song of Prayer

Forgiveness is an illusion as long as we think there is something we need to forgive. Once forgiveness occurs, you see there was nothing that needed to be forgiven – except in your mind – not in reality.

The Course, therefore, tells us -- ***Once forgiveness has been accepted, prayer in the usual sense becomes utterly meaningless.*** (T-3.V.6:4). How can you ask for something if you already have everything? Remember in all things, God's Will, will prevail. Prayer for forgiveness is to simply ***recognize what we already have.***

When the Bible says, "God created man in his own image and likeness, it means in the image and likeness of Spirit," God does not have a body. As nice as they are "sometimes," indeed, much of the time, bodies are a real bother and if they are in pain they are a downright nuisance. "Image" can be understood as "thought," and "likeness." Spirit is a creation of the Thought of God. There "is" nothing else T-3.V.7:3-4.

Upon the completion of many of the lessons from the Course, the Course asks us to allow for periods of wordlessness. Prayer eventually reaches a formless state, and fuses into total communication with God. ***Being*** is a state in which the Mind is in communication with everything that is real.

## VI. Judgment and the Authority Problem

Beyond perception there is no judgment. When we judge the reality of others, we judge ourselves.

When we forgive others, we forgive ourselves.

**The one clear way to realize that we have been forgiven is that we simultaneously realize that we have been forgiven.**

*The choice to judge rather than to know  
is the cause of the loss of peace.*

T-3.VI.2:1

Evaluation is a prerequisite to judgment.

*I was persecuted as the world judges,  
and did not share this evaluation for myself.*

T-6.I.5:2

The ego relishes in persecution. It loves to bitch, complain, grumble, whine, nag, and moan. All such activities involve judgment. They all involve seeing a problem on the "outside." Seeing a problem on the outside means I do not look within to the real source of the problem. Judgment always means rejection. It never sees the affirmative attributes of what is judged. What has been judged and found wanting, remains that way in our minds. Only a *miracle*, only *forgiveness* can set us free. We think that what we judge against has no effect but it has tremendous effect on our own minds.

***You have no idea of the tremendous release and deep peace that comes from meeting yourself and your brothers totally without judgment.***

*When you recognize what you are and what your brothers are, you will realize that judging them in any way is without meaning. In fact, their meaning is lost to you precisely "because" you are judging them.*

T-3.IV.4:1-3

....

*You do not need judgment to organize your life,  
and you certainly do not need it to organize yourself.*

T-3.IV. 4:5

## Knowing Knows

If we were really listening to the voice for God and following God's direction, we would have no questions, and therefore, no need for judgment. We would then simply do what God was asking us to do and enjoy the process. Resisting God's Will gets us in trouble and causes pain.

## The Authority Problem

**Our minds are split.** We try to give some of our attention to God but we give most of our attention to the ego. This gives rise to the authority problem which the Course says is "the root of all evil." Ken says that when he was working with the Russian translator of the Course, they found that the Russians had no word for "authority problem." It was not that they did not have an authority problem, it was that they just did not have a word for it.

The issue of authority is a question of authorship. Whose will is going to win -- God's or the ego? We want to be the author of our dreams not realizing that they are just dreams. The authority problem is the main problem we have with children. Children want to do things their own way and if we say "no" they may scream and yell 'til we renege and give in and give them what they want. I've had two people tell me that God spoke to them after they finally stopped ranting and raving against God. I guess it can work in some circumstance. On the whole, however, *Tantrum Yoga* does not work with God. God knows us with perfect certainty and He can give us only what He knows will make us happy.

The only *inconceivable thought* is that, it is possible to do something "against" or "outside of" the Mind of God. Truth cannot exist outside of the Mind of God. Just as a GPS system always gives us the right directions, whether we follow it or not, so (as Lesson 49 from the Course says), *God's voice speaks to us all through the day*, whether we chose to follow God's direction or not. This "choice" IS the authority problem.

***You have not usurped the power of God,  
but you "have" lost it. Fortunately,  
to lose something does not mean that it has gone.  
It merely means that you do not remember where it is.***

T-3.VI.9:2-4

If I lose my glasses, my glasses are not gone. I simply do not know where I laid them. In the same way, we cannot lose our connection to God. We may be unaware of the connection but God is not.

We have free will. It is one of the things which makes us divine. All loving creation is freely given. We are free to refuse our inheritance, but we are not free to establish what it is.

In the introduction to the Course we read:  
***Free will does not mean that you can establish the curriculum. It means only that you can elect what you want to take at a given time.***

Wishing is a kind of fantasy. Wishing is always "of" the ego.

***The ego is a wrong-minded attempt  
to perceive yourself as we wish to be,  
rather than as you are***

T-3.IV.3:2-4

***Wishes are not facts.***

*To wish is to imply that willing is not sufficient.  
Yet no one in his right mind believes  
that what is wished is as real as what is willed.  
Instead of "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven" say,  
'Will' ye first the Kingdom of Heaven,  
and you have said,  
"I know what I am and I accept my own inheritance."*

T-3.VI.11:6-8

As we have "willed" ourselves to side with separation so must we *willingly* reunite the mind back with "The Mind." We have free will and this must be our choice. God cannot force us to obey him. It would be ungodly. It is possible to hear God's Voice but it takes effort and great willingness to learn.

*We must change our minds, not our behavior,  
and this "is" a matter of willingness.*

T-2.VI.3:4

## VII. Creating versus the Self-Image

Every system of thought begins with either a making or a creating. The ego makes. The Holy Spirit creates. The ego, thus, makes up the world. The Holy Spirit "reflects the Love of God." Both are cornerstones for systems of belief by which we order our lives. We cannot resolve the authority problem by depreciating the power of the mind.

***It is a mistake to believe that a thought system based on lies is weak. Nothing made by a child of God is without power. It is essential to realize this, because otherwise you will be unable to escape from the prison you have made.***

T-3.VII.1:6-8

*Inventiveness is wasted effort even in its most ingenious form. The highly specific nature of invention is not worthy of the abstract creativity of God's creations.*

T-3.V.2:7-8

### **The Devil and the Ego**

Two little boys are walking home from Sunday School. One of them turns to the other and says, "Do you think there really is such a thing as the devil." "Nah," says the other one, "It's like Santa Claus. It's really your dad."

*The mind can make the belief in separation very real and very fearful, and this belief "is" the "devil."*

T-3.VII.5:1

It is possible to compare the ego and the devil, keeping in mind that neither of these really exist. Neither has any "stability," "permanency" or external reality. The ego is a fantasy as is the devil. No "reality" can ever be found in fantasy. The devil is a belief or a concept.

Evil is not a part of God's Kingdom. How could it be? Evil is not real, and despair and death do not exist. All there is is Life. It looks like evil exists since there is plenty of evidence for it in this world. In Heaven evil is literally unthinkable. What is *unthinkable* does not exist. Can God not be God?

The ego can make an "image of itself." Images are perceived, not known. It says in the Bible that Adam "knew" Eve. Don't take this to mean "sexually." Adam "knew" her by loving her as himself.

*You can perceive yourself as self-creating,  
but you cannot do more than believe it.*

*You cannot make it true.*

T-3.VII.4:6-7

*The world is not left by death but by truth,  
and truth can be known by all those  
for whom the Kingdom was created,  
and for whom it waits.*

T-3.VII.6:11

If we do God's Will, the ego will be no more and the ego knows it. It is only by doing God's Will that we can fulfill our destiny. You are the decider of your destiny in time. It is your destiny to realize the truth. God always wins in the end. You are among the saviors of the world. To deny God's authorship is to deny ourselves peace of mind. Free will was given to us for our *joy in creating the perfect*.

### Ending Prayer from Lesson 352

*Forgiveness looks on sinlessness alone,  
and judges not. Through this I come to You.  
Judgment will bind my eyes and make me blind.  
Yet love, reflected in forgiveness here, reminds me  
You have given me a way to find Your peace again.  
I am redeemed when I elect to follow in this way.*

*You have not left me comfortless.*

*I have within me both the memory of You,  
and One Who leads me to it.*

*Father, I would hear Your Voice  
and find Your peace today.*

*For I would love my own Identity,  
and find in It the memory of You.*