

A COURSE IN MIRACLES STUDY GROUP WITH RAJ

September 23rd 2017

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THIS IS A ROUGH TRANSCRIPT.
THIS COPY IS NOT IN ITS FINAL FORM
AND WILL BE UPDATED

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Good evening. And welcome to everyone who's joining us on the Internet.

I'm going to jump right into the book, starting with the last full sentence on page 342 in the Sparkly book.

It says . . .

Nothing you have ever learned can help you understand the present, or teach you how to undo the past. Your past IS what you have taught [yourself]. 1

And then in all capital letters it says:

LET IT ALL GO. Do not attempt to understand any event, or anything, or anyone in its light, for the light of darkness by which you try to see can ONLY obscure.

Now, I read that two months ago tonight, the 23rd of July. And when we finished I said that we would continue next week. Two months ago tonight we were going to continue the next week.

Now, I need to say something: what we have been talking about in the last two meetings and what we will be talking about tonight constitutes the single crux of *A Course In Miracles*. It is either what renders *A Course In Miracles* meaningless, fraudulent, silly, ridiculous, useless or it is what identifies and manifests it's value, it's reason for existing. What we are reading about you must understand is literal. It's not spiritual, it's not figurative, it's not la-la spouting. It's literal. Either you take it literally and experience Atonement because you grasp the meaning and the fact that it requires being in a new way, or you don't take it as literal and you become a sort of fairytale student of a fairytale *Course in Miracles* and for a time perhaps feel secure and safe and happy. But it will be a false happiness and it will not last, simply because we are at this change-line, we are at this place of transformation, this place of the undoing of illusion, the place of the end of fragmentation and the restoration of unity—which means harmony, which means relationships inseparable from Love.

Now, when you read:

Nothing you have ever learned can help you understand the present, or teach you how to undo the past. Your past IS what you have taught yourselves. LET IT ALL GO.

[Chuckling] That is absolutely literal! Where does that leave you? Well, it leaves you in a place of adjustment if you are going to consider it to be true—a place of profound shifting, profound adjustment.

After our last meeting, Paul, indeed, felt and understood what had come out of his mouth. And yet, the next day he hadn't been out of bed three minutes before he opened up his mouth and spoke for himself. In other words, there was no inquiry of me or the Holy Spirit as to what to do next, or what to address, or what needed attention. He was quite confident that he knew what to do. But you know what? There was an edge to it, an edge which Susan recognized immediately, as him not being in his peace. And she called him on it. In other words, she brought it to his attention. And he had an argument to it. I mean after all, he had just woken up . . . what could she expect . . . give him a chance.

There was a mean-spirited attitude right under the surface of his attention when he got up. And he was offended at being called upon it. After perhaps twenty minutes of vigorous interchange he yielded, he stopped in his self-assertive independent process and he did join with me and he was able to see that, indeed, he wasn't joined.

Now, I am aware that during the past two months many of you have experienced frustration, anger, pervasive negativity, jealousy, hurt feelings. In other words, being offended in one form or another. Why? Because you weren't being given credit, you weren't being acknowledged, your dignity, your respectability was being overridden or being ignored. It's important to understand then that when credit is not being given to you, when praise and appreciation and that which acknowledges your sense of worth is not extended to you, you get upset. Pay attention when you are caught up in emotion, look and see whether you are upset because you're not being given credit for something that you should be being given credit for.

“Well, I'm not being given credit for what I know. I'm not being given credit for all the experience I've had that has proven to me how things work and that, therefore, what I share and what I say is meaningful and valuable and should be appreciated.” You know, think about it, when you operate on the basis of credit in your negotiations and interactions with others, you are spending something you don't actually have. And that's why you're doing it on credit.

Now, when you operate independently, when you have abandoned your connection with the Holy Spirit—which is that of you which is held in trust while you dally with the ego—when you act independent of your Self which is the full Expression of the Father you're operating on credit. In other words, you are spending identity that you don't have actually. It's imagined. You are expressing a self that isn't actual and you are expecting the same return that you would get if you were Real, if you were behaving as the holy Son or Daughter of God that you actually Are.

To be given credit is a means you have of feeding your pride, of proving to yourself that you are worthwhile. And you know what? Oh, if:

Your past IS what you have taught yourselves.

. . . and you need to:

LET IT ALL GO.

Where's your worth, where is all of it that you're supposed to be given credit for? It's insulting.

Now, over the past two months Paul has certainly talked with me. We have had discussions, but he and I having discussions with each other isn't Paul relating to his Brother or Sister, his fellowman, his wife from that which is Real in him. And most of the engagement has been—what shall I say—void of the fullness and the meaning and the value that his connection with me provides him, as well as those to whom he extends our joining. And that is key. And it is key for every single individual.

Waking up involves caring about your Brother enough to put yourself in the position of being able to provide something of value to your Brother, which you must avail yourself of by abandoning your self-reliance and leaning into the Holy Spirit, or the Father, or me to gather the clarity of Mind that it's your Birthright to be experiencing, and the place from which you are to function. It's in the giving of not your perspective but the perspective of the Holy Spirit, which is truly your right Mind. And in so doing, being infilled with the Father's perspective which the Holy Spirit—your right Mind—reveals. In the revealing of It to your Brother, it's revealed to you and you experience who you Are and how you function and what your purpose is. You come Home. The Atonement is experienced. And the struggle is over.

Now, it says:

Do not attempt to understand any event, or anything, or anyone in its light, . .

. . . the light of your learning and your arriving at imaginative definitions to be applied to what God has already Created.

. . . for the light of darkness by which you try to see can ONLY obscure.

Now, the darkness isn't always negative. The darkness can be you feeling very confident about what's good, and your insistence on confronting your Brother or Sister with that which is good for their benefit, of course, but also for yours. The darkness is the expression of learning that hasn't been acquired from union with God, from your love of God, and your being willing to accept the fact that your expressing the Father's perspective as the Father reveals it to you now . . . now . . . now . . . now is the experience, the divine experience of Being.

Now, part of what irritated Paul was that there were things he wanted to do, there were good ideas he felt he had that would promote better well-being for him. And it would employ skills and things that he was capable of that he thoroughly enjoyed doing and that he knew he did well and that he knew would reflect well on him. So, if he were to be connected with me or the Holy Spirit in every moment, guided by the Father's Perspective as it flowed through the Holy Spirit, he would be deprived of doing some really great things.

Now, I've mentioned before that many who are incarnating at this time are here for one last fling in humanhood, in materiality, one last fling before never being able to experience again the thrills and the fear of being mortal, or of being manipulative, or of being ultra-controlling and so on. It's an attitude which apparently creates and determines worth, or at least that's the ego hit that comes from it. But the fact is that everyone is here, everyone is in this position of learning because your Birthright, being the Son or Daughter of God that you Are, the direct present Expression of God because it is what you are to resume being consciously instead of pushing it into the unconscious while you fill the foreground of consciousness with your own terrific ideas.

When it says to, LET IT ALL GO all of your learning, all of your past, to let it all go is so insulting to the ego because you're not going to be able to get the hit, the drug like hit, the high of importance and greatness and power.

Continuing. And I've started back a little bit with what we covered last time so that there's a lead into what we're going to read tonight.

Put no confidence at all in darkness . . .

In other words, in your memory, in your conclusions, in your learning, in the learning you taught yourself, even the goodness that you've taught yourself that you would try to manipulate others with for their good.

Put no confidence at all in darkness to illuminate your understanding, for if you do you contradict the light, and thereby THINK you see the darkness. Yet darkness cannot BE seen, for it is nothing more than a condition in which seeing becomes impossible.

When you're getting credit for being something you aren't then seeing and experiencing who you Are becomes impossible. It's not your goal, the opposite is the goal.

You who have not yet brought all of the darkness you have taught yourselves unto the light in you . . .

You see, that's the important point. The Holy Spirit is nothing more than your right Mind while you dally with the ego.

You who have not yet brought all of the darkness you have taught yourselves unto the light in you . . .

. . . unto the Holy Spirit . . .

... can hardly judge the truth and value of this course. Yet God did not abandon you. And so you have another lesson sent from Him, . . .
... God ...

... ALREADY learned for every Child of light by Him to Whom God gave it.
Well, who did God give it to? God gave it to you, but you're dallying with the ego so you're ignoring it. So, that of you which is your right Mind that you're ignoring is what it was given to [whispering] already, already!

... you have another lesson sent from [Him] God, ALREADY learned for every Child of light . . .
... meaning you ...

... by Him to Whom God gave it.
Your divine Self that you are at this moment, but which you are insisting on ignoring because you want the hit of being right, righteous, and being able to be given credit due you.

This lesson shines with God's glory, for in it lies His power, . . .
... not yours ...

... which He shares so gladly with His Son.
But, Paul can attest to you that that gift can seem to interfere with something Paul wants to do, or something you want to do. You see? And, therefore, it's an unwelcome gift because you have to abandon what you want, even though what you want amounts to an act of being an individuality when it's just an imagination of what an individual is that you are clinging to desperately to give yourself meaning while you're on your own. This is important to understand.

More bad news:

Learn of His . . .
... God's happiness.

Learn of His happiness, which is YOURS.
"Oh, no it's not! My happiness is when I get to do what I want to do and come up with something brilliant and fantastic and recognizably great to everyone who sees it. That's my happiness. I don't want His happiness, at least not till I've had a chance to have my happiness."

Learn of His happiness, which is YOURS. But to accomplish this, all your dark lessons must be brought willingly to truth, and joyously laid down by hands open to receive, not closed to take.

When you're independent you got to take what you can get. Nothing's given, nothing's free. You don't give anything for free. No one else gives anything for free. You got to find a way to get it, to take it, to get control of it, to get control of it away from someone else. That's the way it works.

Every dark lesson that you bring to Him Who teaches light He will accept from you, because you do not want it.

That's the zinger! Until you do not want it you will not give it, you will not release it to be replaced with what's Real. See? This is the literalness of it. It's not just pleasant spiritual or stimulating wonderful spiritual thoughts. It actually involves a commitment to behave in a new way, the way that identifies you Truly.

Every dark lesson that you bring to Him Who teaches light He will accept from you, because you do not want it.

Because, you really do not want it.

And He will gladly EXCHANGE each one for the bright lesson He has learned for you.

The Holy Spirit has learned, because the Holy Spirit—that of you which is your right Mind—never forgot it. The Holy Spirit knows it because the Holy Spirit has never pretended to be something other than the Presence of God being what God is being.

Never believe that any lesson you have learned APART from Him means anything.

Literal, absolutely literal. But where does that leave you? You get up in the morning, or you sit at the table, or you start to get up to go to the car to go shopping . . . how do you do that with innocence, without bringing along with you all your prior definitions regarding every step you go through. How . . . how do you . . . how do you do what you don't know how to do without relying on the past?

Well, it's simple. It's called the two-step, it's the practice of the holy instant. You ask, "What do I need to know?" You be still, attentively, but ever so quietly for insight. And you keep doing this over and over until you have it and then seem to lose it. And you do it until you have it again. And you keep doing it until having it becomes easier.

You have one test, as sure as God, by which to recognize if what you learned is true. If you are wholly free of fear of any kind, and if all those who meet, or even think of you, share in your perfect peace, then you can be sure that you have learned God's lesson, and not yours.

Well, that's a pretty tall order. Sounds impossible. Why even try? Because it's not impossible. And only in giving your attention there like any other endeavor can your capacity be revealed to you—be uncovered as You.

Unless all this is true there ARE dark lessons in your minds which hurt and hinder you, and everyone around you.

You recognize them as experiences of frustration and fear and doubt and unwanted negativity and seeming to be controlled by elements that you would run away from screaming if there was a way to get away.

The ABSENCE of perfect peace means but ONE thing: You THINK you do not will for God's Son what His Father wills for him.

That can mean that you think you do not will for yourself what your Father wills for you as well as you think—mind you the operative word is “think”—you think you do not will for your Brother what his Father wills for him. Why? Because you've got your own definition of your Brother and of yourself, and that's what you will for him or your Sister. You know how your Brother or Sister should be acting. You've learned. And you know what? Your righteous judgment of the fact that they are not behaving the way they should, becomes the focus, rather than the correction being the focus. That's a dark lesson.

Every dark lesson teaches this, in one form or another.

In other words, that:

You THINK you do not will for God's Son what His Father wills for him. [And] Every dark lesson teaches this, in one form or another. And each bright lesson, with which the Holy Spirit will replace the dark ones you do not accept and hide, teaches you that you will WITH the Father unto His Son.

Once again, this only happens in relationship. You must will with the Father on behalf of your Brother in order for the will of the Father to register with you as your true will and your true nature expressed. That's the only way it works.

Now:

Do not be concerned how you can learn a lesson so completely different from everything you have taught yourselves.

Not only is it completely different, it's almost as though it's a different self that's done it and your being required to become a different self from what you Are. That's an impossible lesson to learn, or so it seems.

Do not be concerned how you can learn a lesson so completely different from everything you have taught yourselves. How would you know?

Pure assumption. Something else you taught yourself. That's why the Holy Spirit is addressing you, constantly insinuating Itself into your awareness—your right Mind constantly insinuating Itself into your awareness. That's why I am engaged into the same thing, and that's why *A Course in Miracles* could put in print the ideas that express this truth. Complicated?

How would you know? Your part is very simple.

You see? And you need someone to tell you this so that you can dare to think that perhaps it is simple and that it is possible, rather than impossible. To actually yield to Wisdom that initially seems to be different from you, so that in yielding to it, it can begin to register with you as you because you are the holy Son or Daughter of God and not the independent,

struggling and sometimes succeeding entity that you have imagined yourself to be and you are suffering from because you are never truly experiencing your real Being, your real awareness, your real nature, your absolute safety, your invulnerability, your immortality, your perfection.

Your part is very simple. You need only recognize that everything you learned you do not WANT.

You need to come up to the black and white of it. You must be willing initially to read those words:

You need only recognize that everything you learned you do not WANT.

You need to read those words and think maybe that's possible, maybe that's true, maybe I can let go of wanting it not by struggling with it, but by simply shifting my attention to an inquisitiveness, a reaching out, a desiring for something that I know nothing of, at least at the moment. It's that simple. That's—for lack of better words—the mechanism. That's what precipitates Atonement.

Ask to be TAUGHT, and do not use your experiences to confirm what YOU have learned.

When you get into this place of decision and commitment, you will be amazed how quickly the arguments with great vehemence will arise, which in so many words, will dissuade you from making the investment of attention—of innocent unbiased attention. You'll know exactly why it won't work, or exactly why something else has to be done first, thus delaying the actual shift, genuine shift to attentiveness with an expectation of an answer that you're not providing.

Ask to be TAUGHT, . . .

. . . that's the simple step, it's desire.

Ask to be TAUGHT, . . .

. . . you can ask to be taught but, if it isn't desire, you're not really asking and you're not really listening. And all of the arguments that say you don't have that desire will abide there mumbling around with darkness and mean-spiritedness and self-righteousness. And it's all a distraction from the simplicity of bringing innocence of attention into the moment.

When your peace is threatened, or disturbed in any way, . . .

. . . which you will find it will be. [Chuckling] When you get to that point of being willing to desire to know beyond your present knowledge, it will come up.

When your peace is threatened, or disturbed in any way, . . .

. . . what do you do?

. . . say to yourself,

“I do not know what anything, INCLUDING THIS, means.

Your problem will be that you will think you do know what this means. And you will want to rely upon and exercise what you have taught yourself or what you have learned at the hand of anything other than the Will of the Father Expressed through the Holy Spirit—which is your right Mind.

“I do not know what anything, INCLUDING THIS, means.

Again, this is literal. These words mean exactly that. It’s not figurative in any way. It’s not some spiritual concept separate from the actuality of being conscious and engaged in living.

When your peace is threatened, or disturbed [in any way], say to yourself,

“I do not know what anything, INCLUDING THIS, means.

And mean it when you say it!

And so I do not know how to respond to it.

What are you doing here? You’re cleaning the slate. You’re getting all the scribbling off of it that you have put on. And you must be willing to assume that the scribbling is scribbling and not script that’s valid, in order to get past the scribbling and see what is beyond it or behind it.

And so I do not know how to respond to it.

And I will not use my own past learning as the light to guide me now.”

That’s what you do. It’s easy. It’s a spontaneous thing to imagine what doing that all day long regarding everything, what that would mean, what that would feel like. And imaginations [chuckling] are not good.

The Father revealing Himself illuminating the Mind that He is in you as You is what Creation is. That is an experience you should be having because it’s the only Real one. And in spite of the overlay of imaginations that you have laid upon it, it continues to be the only Real thing there is and the only actual Movement of Conscious Awareness that you can have. And when you are willing to skip the traces to abandon the halter, to slip out of it—the halter of your very definite concepts and opinions and theories—and you’re willing to go into the “not knowing place,” that’s when the Atonement can occur. That’s when you can slip, as it were, fall into the underlying arms and actuality of your Being, which is the Presence of God Being All There Is to You as your experience. This is what you are daring to abandon your thinking, abandon what you’ve taught yourself. This is what you’re being willing to abandon it for.

By this refusal to attempt to teach yourself what you do not know, the Guide Whom God has given you . . .

. . . the Holy Spirit and me . . .

. . . will speak to you.

Again, literal fact.

He will take His rightful place in your awareness the instant YOU abandon it, . . .
... abandon what? What you've taught yourself . . .

... and offer it to Him.

“Hey, Holy Spirit, if what I think is true is not true, what is true? If what I'm seeing is not what it Really is, what is it Really? If what I'm believing about myself or my Brother is not true, what is true about myself and my Brother?” You see? You don't have to get a bulldozer or use some extreme power to get rid of what's standing in the way of your experience of Reality. All you have to do is say, “Hey, Holy Spirit, what's really going on here?” And then not interfere with the answer by inserting your own confidences, your own thoughts, your own best theories.

Here it is, more fact:

YOU cannot be your guide to miracles, for it is you who made them necessary.
Literal fact.

YOU cannot be your guide to miracles, . . .

So what does that mean? Mean what a bad boy you are? What a bad girl you are? Shame on you! You don't deserve anything! No. Since you cannot be your guide to miracles because it is you who made them necessary, you can turn to your guide to miracles which isn't something foreign to you, it's your own right Mind, the Holy Spirit, the Presence of God in you as you being All There Is of You, the experience of which is the experience of wholeness, eternity, and so on.

YOU cannot be your guide to miracles, for it is you who made them necessary. And BECAUSE you did, the means on which you can depend for miracles has been provided FOR you.

As I've said before, the moment you and a Brother or Sister decided together to make commitment to your own definitions and got a divorce from the Father, divorced yourself—became independent from your Source—of course, purely imaginarily. The moment you did that the actuality of you, which couldn't be separate from you, became that which was ever-present with you called the Holy Spirit, whose task naturally was to reintegrate what couldn't really be disintegrated.

God's Son can make no needs His Father will not meet, if he but turn to Him ever so little.

So, don't make a big impossible deal out of [chuckling] doing things entirely differently or you'll simply add delay and stress to the inevitable Awakening. Just dare to become inquisitive, curious, curious enough to pay attention, which means to shut up so that the Presence of Love can embrace you, so that you can experience the embrace. So that you might experience transformation and redemption and everything good that constitutes integration, unity and, therefore, harmony.

Yet He . . .
... God . . .

... cannot compel His Son to turn to Him, and remain Himself. It is impossible that God lose His Identity, for if He did, you would lose YOURS.

So absolutely One is Reality that even though you have pretended to be independent from the Father, the Father cannot be something unlike Himself to entice you back or to coerce you back to be some sort of force independent from you to affect you. You see? The Oneness is absolute. So you could say the return is entirely up to you. It's your decision to say, "Everything I know is not true and I am going to reach out to the Source of all Being and ask for the Truth to be revealed to me so that I might learn something new that's True."

[Raj did not read this sentence: And being yours, He cannot change Himself, for your Identity IS changeless.]

The miracle acknowledges His changelessness . . .

. . . God's changelessness . . .

... by seeing His Son as he always was, and not as he would make himself.

. . . By imagining he is something different.

The miracle brings the effects which ONLY guiltlessness can bring, and thus establishes the fact that guiltlessness must BE.

Guiltlessness Is. It is your nature. It is your judgment. It is the judgment upon you. You are guiltless. Now that's literal too. And you are guiltless right now and the experience of it awaits you when you dare to stop dead in your tracks. In other words, shut up your mind, become still—silent—and ask a curious question, "If things are not as I am experiencing them, how are they?" Again, don't make a strenuous task out of it. Be simply and genuinely curious all day long. And be willing to let your curiosity make room for something that you don't know.

Now, I'm going to tell you something: that doesn't mean that what will be revealed to you isn't something that you already thought. You will, in your listening for Guidance find truth in you confirmed, but it won't be the confirmation of an independent ego's actions as being the truth. It will be clearly the awareness of Truth that you might say you always felt, but you will Know It from the Presence of God in you, rather than a shallow imagination.

And this is important to understand. You are not right now full of nothing but bullshit. But because everything you are consciously embracing at the moment is being embraced on the basis of your being an independent thinker, what you're knowing is not the Truth itself in the fullness of the experience of it as the Presence of God in you as your identity. But, even so, you must be careful in light of what I just said not to assume that you're going to be able to bring some of your present awareness into the state of being Awake. You must be willing to abandon everything. Let it all go, everything you thought you knew. This is very important.

Now, we're going to stop here for tonight. And as I said last time, I encourage you to read on to the end of the Chapter between now and next week. As you read this, read it as though it is absolutely literal. Be willing to contemplate it in the light of it being literal. And in light of it being literal do your best everyday all day long to preface as many moments as you can with the thought:

“I do not know what anything, INCLUDING THIS, means.

And so I do not know how to respond to it.

And I will not use my own past learning as the light to guide me now.”

What's that going to do? If you're serious about it, if you're genuine about it, it's going to put you in a void. And you need to let yourself be in it, and don't attempt to fill it up with some very creative thoughts, even positive thoughts. Be willing to be in the void so that the void can be filled with the Father's Love uncovering the Truth, uncovering You to you.

And remember not to do it with a vengeance but with a gentle but definite curiosity, a gentle attention—an undisturbed attention. Let there be faith that [chuckling] you will be answered. The Holy Spirit—that which is nothing more than your right Mind—is, of course, ever-present with you constantly intent upon registering with you. You're not doing this alone. And I am with you, always available. Accept the fact that we are present to answer and will.

You are loved very much. I love you very much. That which is nothing more than your right Mind, the wholeness of you, the divinity of you loves you very much and supports you in your willingness to be in the void for the specific purpose of learning what you don't know yet. The teaching will occur. The learning will occur. It's guaranteed, but only when you abandon faith in your own thinking, your own learning that you have taught yourself, a teaching you are very proud of and a learning that you take great credit for, all of which blinds you and hooks you like a drug to an ignorance to what you already Are.

I can very confidently say, that we will continue next week.

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References:

Chapter 14 – Section: THE TEST OF TRUTH

1 Sparkly Book—Page 342, Last Full Sen.

JCIM--Page 143, 3rd Par. 5th Sen.

CIMS--Page 288,1st Par. 5th Sen.

First Edition--Page 276, Line 4 from the top

Second Edition--Page 296, Par.3, Sen. 5

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A Course in Miracles Study Group with Raj, September 23rd, 2017
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