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## VIII. The Conditions of Peace

T-17.VIII.1. The holy instant is nothing more than a special case, or an extreme example, of what every situation is meant to be. 2 The meaning that the Holy Spirit's purpose has given it is also given to every situation. 3 It calls forth just the same suspension of faithlessness, withheld and left unused, that faith might answer to the call of truth. 4 The holy instant is the shining example, the clear and unequivocal demonstration of the meaning of every relationship and every situation, seen as a whole. 5 Faith has accepted every aspect of the situation, and faithlessness has not forced any exclusion on it. 6 It is a situation of perfect peace, simply because you have let it be what it is.

T-17.VIII.2. This simple courtesy is all the Holy Spirit asks of you. 2 Let truth be what it is. 3 Do not intrude upon it, do not attack it, do not interrupt its coming. 4 Let it

encompass every situation and bring you peace. 5 Not even faith is asked of you, for truth asks nothing. 6 Let it enter, and it will call forth and secure for you the faith you need for peace. 7 But rise you not against it, for against your opposition it cannot come.

T-17.VIII.3. Would you not want to make a holy instant of every situation? 2 For such is the gift of faith, freely given wherever faithlessness is laid aside, unused. 3 And then the power of the Holy Spirit's purpose is free to use instead. 4 This power instantly transforms all situations into one sure and continuous means for establishing His purpose, and demonstrating its reality. 5 What has been demonstrated has called for faith, and has been given it. 6 Now it becomes a fact, from which faith can no longer be withheld. 7 The strain of refusing faith to truth is enormous, and far greater than you realize. 8 But to answer truth with faith entails no strain at all.

T-17.VIII.4. To you who have acknowledged the Call of your Redeemer, the strain of not responding to His Call seems to be greater than before. 2 This is not so. 3 Before, the strain was there, but you attributed it to something else, believing that the "something else" produced it. 4 This was never true. 5 For what the "something else" produced was sorrow and depression, sickness and pain, darkness and dim imaginings of terror, cold fantasies of fear and fiery dreams of hell. 6 And it was nothing but the intolerable strain of refusing to give faith to truth, and see its evident reality.

T-17.VIII.5. Such was the crucifixion of the Son of God. 2 His faithlessness did this to him. 3 Think carefully before you let yourself use faithlessness against him. 4 For he is risen, and you have accepted the Cause of his awakening as yours. 5 You have assumed your part in his redemption, and you are now fully responsible to him. 6 Fail him not now, for it has been given you to realize what your lack of faith in him must mean to you. 7 His salvation is your only purpose. 8 See only this in every situation, and it will be a means for bringing only this.

T-17.VIII.6. When you accepted truth as the goal for your relationship, you became a giver of peace as surely as your Father gave peace to you. 2 For the goal of peace cannot be accepted apart from its conditions, and you had faith in it for no one accepts what he does not believe is real. 3 Your purpose has not changed, and will not change, for you accepted what can never change. 4 And nothing that it needs to be forever changeless can you now withhold from it. 5 Your release is certain. 6 Give as you have received. 7 And demonstrate that you have risen far beyond any situation that could hold you back, and keep you separate from Him Whose Call you answered.

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