

Welcome to The Little Garden. We present classes in many formats to help with your study of *A Course in Miracles*. Our goal is to inspire students of *A Course in Miracles* to read and study the Course for themselves, and to practice it as written.

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X. The Confusion of Pain and Joy

T-7.X.1. The Kingdom is the result of premises, just as this world is. 2 You may have carried the ego's reasoning to its logical conclusion, which is total confusion about everything. 3 If you really saw this result you could not want it. 4 The only reason you could possibly want any part of it is because you do not see the whole of it. 5 You are willing to look at the ego's premises, but not at their logical outcome. 6 Is it not possible that you have done the same thing with the premises of God? 7 Your creations are the logical outcome of His premises. 8 His thinking has established them for you. 9 They are exactly where they belong. 10 They belong in your mind as part of your identification with His, but your state of mind and your recognition of what is in it depend on what you believe about your mind. 11 Whatever these beliefs may be, they are the premises that

will determine what you accept into your mind.

T-7.X.2. It is surely clear that you can both accept into your mind what is not there, and deny what is. 2 Yet the function God Himself gave your mind through His you may deny, but you cannot prevent. 3 It is the logical outcome of what you are. 4 The ability to see a logical outcome depends on the willingness to see it, but its truth has nothing to do with your willingness. 5 Truth is God's Will. 6 Share His Will and you share what He knows. 7 Deny His Will as yours, and you are denying His Kingdom *and* yours.

T-7.X.3. The Holy Spirit will direct you only so as to avoid pain. 2 Surely no one would object to this goal if he recognized it. 3 The problem is not whether what the Holy Spirit says is true, but whether you want to listen to what He says. 4 You no more recognize what is painful than you know what is joyful, and are, in fact, very apt to confuse the two. 5 The Holy Spirit's main function is to teach you to tell them apart. 6 What is joyful to you is painful to the ego, and as long as you are in doubt about what you are, you will be confused about joy and pain. 7 This confusion is the cause of the whole idea of sacrifice. 8 Obey the Holy Spirit, and you will be giving up the ego. 9 But you will be sacrificing nothing. 10 On the contrary, you will be gaining everything. 11 If you believed this, there would be no conflict.

T-7.X.4. That is why you need to demonstrate the obvious to yourself. 2 It is not obvious to you. 3 You believe that doing the opposite of God's Will can be better for you. 4 You also believe that it is possible to *do* the opposite of God's Will. 5 Therefore, you believe that an impossible choice is open to you, and one which is both fearful and desirable. 6 Yet God wills. 7 He does not wish. 8 Your will is as powerful as His because it *is* His. 9 The ego's wishes do not mean anything, because the ego wishes for the impossible. 10 You can wish for the impossible, but you can will only with God. 11 This is the ego's weakness and your strength.

T-7.X.5. The Holy Spirit always sides with you and with your strength. 2 As long as you avoid His guidance in any way, you want to be weak. 3 Yet weakness is frightening. 4 What else, then, can this decision mean except that you want to be fearful? 5 The Holy Spirit never asks for sacrifice, but the ego always does. 6 When you are confused about this distinction in motivation, it can only be due to projection. 7 Projection is a confusion in motivation, and given this confusion, trust becomes impossible. 8 No one gladly obeys a guide he does not trust, but this does not mean that the guide is untrustworthy. 9 In this case, it always means that the follower is. 10 However, this, too, is merely a matter of his own belief. 11 Believing that he can betray, he believes that everything can betray him. 12 Yet this is only because he has elected to follow false guidance. 13 Unable to follow this guidance without fear, he associates fear with guidance, and refuses to follow any guidance at all. 14 If the result of this decision is confusion, this is hardly surprising.

T-7.X.6. The Holy Spirit is perfectly trustworthy, as you are. 2 God Himself trusts you, and therefore your trustworthiness is beyond question. 3 It will always remain beyond question, however much you may question it. 4 I said before that you are the Will of God. 5 His Will is not an idle wish, and your identification with His Will is not optional, since it is what you are. 6 Sharing His Will with me is not really open to choice, though it may seem to be. 7 The whole separation lies in this error. 8 The only way out of the error is to

decide that you do not have to decide anything. 9 Everything has been given you by God's decision. 10 That is His Will, and you cannot undo it.

T-7.X.7. Even the relinquishment of your false decision-making prerogative, which the ego guards so jealously, is not accomplished by your wish. 2 It was accomplished for you by the Will of God, Who has not left you comfortless. 3 His Voice will teach you how to distinguish between pain and joy, and will lead you out of the confusion you have made. 4 There is no confusion in the mind of a Son of God, whose will must be the Will of the Father, because the Father's Will *is* His Son.

T-7.X.8. Miracles are in accord with the Will of God, Whose Will you do not know because you are confused about what *you* will. 2 This means that you are confused about what you are. 3 If you are God's Will and do not accept His Will, you are denying joy. 4 The miracle is therefore a lesson in what joy is. 5 Being a lesson in sharing it is a lesson in love, which *is* joy. 6 Every miracle is thus a lesson in truth, and by offering truth you are learning the difference between pain and joy.

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