

This is not a course in theoretical philosophy, nor is it concerned with precise terminology, ~~(in connection with origins.)~~ It is concerned only with Atonement, or the correction of perception. The means of the Atonement is forgiveness. The structure of "individual consciousness" is essentially irrelevant, because it is a concept representing the "original error" or the "original sin." To study the error itself does not lead to correction, if you are indeed to succeed in overlooking the error. And it is just this process of overlooking at which the course aims.

All terms are potentially controversial, and those who seek controversy will find it. Yet those who seek clarification will find it as well. They must, however, be willing to overlook controversy, recognizing that it is a defense against truth, in the form of a delaying maneuver. Theological considerations as such are necessarily controversial, since they depend on belief and can therefore be accepted or rejected. A universal theology is impossible, but a universal experience is not only possible but necessary. It is this experience toward which the course is directed. Here alone consistency becomes possible, because here alone uncertainty ends.

This course remains within the ego framework, where it is needed. It is not concerned with what is beyond all error because it is planned only to set the direction towards it. Therefore it uses words, which are symbolic, and cannot express what lies beyond symbols. It is always the ego that questions because it is only the ego that doubts. The course merely gives another answer, once a question has been raised. However, this answer does not ~~(attempt to)~~ resort to inventiveness or ingenuity. These are attributes of the ego. The course is simple. It has one function and one goal. Only in that does it remain wholly consistent because only that can be consistent.

The ego will demand many answers ^{that} this course does not give. It does not recognize as questions the mere form of a question to which an answer is impossible. The ego may ask, "How did the impossible occur?", "to what did the impossible happen?", and may ask ^{this} in many forms. Yet there is no answer; only an experience. Seek only this, and not let theology delay you.

You will notice that the emphasis on structural issues in the course is brief and early. Afterwards and soon, it drops away to make way for the central teaching. Since you have asked for clarification, however, these are some of the terms that are used:

★ The term "mind" is used to represent the activating agent ~~mechanism~~ of Spirit, supplying its creative energy. When the term is capitalized it refers to God or Christ (i.e., the Mind of God or the ~~the~~ Mind of Christ).

Spirit is the Thought of God which He created like Himself. The unified Spirit is God's one Son, or Christ. In this world, because the mind is split, the Sons of God appear to be separate. Nor do their minds seem to be joined. ~~Nor do their minds see~~ In this illusory state, the concept of an "individual mind" seems to be meaningful. It is therefore described in the course as if it has two parts; spirit and ego. Spirit is the part that is still in contact with God through the Holy Spirit, Who abides in this part but sees the other part as well. The term ~~the~~ "soul" is not used except in direct Biblical quotations because of its highly controversial nature. It would, however, be an equivalent of "spirit," with the understanding that, being of God, it is eternal and was never born.

The other part of the mind is entirely illusory and makes only illusions. Spirit the retains potential for creating, but its Will which is God's, seems to be imprisoned while the mind is not unified. Creation continues unabated because that is the Will of God. This Will is always unified, and therefore has no meaning in this world. It has no opposite and no degrees.

The mind can be right or wrong, depending on the voice to which it listens. Right-mindedness listens to the Holy Spirit, forgives the world, and through Christ's vision sees the real world in its place. This is the final vision, the last perception, the condition in which God takes the final step Himself. Here time and illusions end together. Wrong-mindedness listens to the ego and makes illusions; perceiving sin and justifying anger, and seeing guilt, disease and death as real. Both this world and the real world are illusions, because right-mindedness merely overlooks, or forgives, what never happened.

Therefore it is not the "One-mindedness" of the Christ Mind, Whose Will is one with God's. ~~XX~~

~~XX~~ In this world the only remaining freedom is the freedom of choice; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XX~~ always between two choices or two voices. Will is not involved in perception at any level, and has nothing to do with choice. Consciousness is the receptive mechanism, receiving messages from above or below; from the Holy Spirit or the ego. Consciousness has levels and awareness can shift quite dramatically, but it cannot transcend the perceptual realm. At its highest, it becomes aware of the real world, and can be trained to do so increasingly. Yet the very fact that it has levels and can be trained demonstrates that ~~consciousness~~ cannot reach knowledge.

Illusions will not last. Their death is sure, and this alone is certain their in ~~the~~ world. It is the ego's world because of this. What is the ego? But a dream of what you really are. A thought you are ~~apart~~ from your Creator, and a wish to be what He created not. It is a thing of madness, not reality at all. An ~~an~~ name for namelessness is all it is. A symbol of impossibility; a choice for options that do not exist. We ~~call it that~~ ^{name it that} to help us understand that it is nothing but an ancient thought that what is made has immortality. But what could come of this except a dream which, like all dreams, ~~could only die?~~ ^{can only die?}

What is the ego? Nothingness, but in a form that seems like something. In a world of form the ego cannot be denied, for it alone ~~it~~ seems real. ~~How~~ could God's Son as He created him abide in form or in a world of form? Who asks you to define the ego and explain how it arose can be but he who thinks it real, and seeks by definition to ensure that its illusive nature ~~xxx~~ ^{is} concealed behind the words that seem to make it so. ~~There is no definition for a lie that serves to make it true. Nor can there be a truth that lies concealed effectively.~~

The ego's unreality is not denied by words nor is its meaning clear because its nature seems to have a form. Who can define the undefinable? And yet there is an answer even here. We cannot really make a definition for what the ego is, but we can say what it is not. And this is shown to us with perfect clarity. It is from this that we deduce all that the ego is. Look at its opposite and you can see the only answer that is meaningful.

The ego's opposite in every way, - in origin, effect and consequence - we call a miracle. And here we find all that is not the ego in ~~the~~ world. Here is the ego's opposite, and here alone we look on what the ego was, For here we see all that it ~~seemed~~ to do, and cause and its effects must still be one. Where there was darkness now we see the light. What ~~was~~ ^{is} the ego? What the darkness was. Where ~~was~~ ^{is} the ego? Where the darkness was.

What is it now and where can it be found? Nothing and nowhere. Now the light has come; Its opposite has gone without a trace. ~~Where~~ ^{Where} evil was there

now is holiness. What is the ego? What the evil was. Where is the ego? In an evil dream that but ~~seemed~~ real while you were dreaming it. ^W Where there was crucifixion stands God's Son. What is the ego? Who has need to ask? Where is the ego? Who has need to seek for an illusion now the dreams are gone?

What is a miracle? A dream as well. But look at all the aspects of this dream, and you will never question any more. Look at the kindly world you see ^{extend} ~~stretch~~ ^{forth} ~~far~~ before you as you walk in gentleness. Look at the helpers all along the way you travel, happy in the ^{certain} ~~hope~~ of Heaven and the ^{sure} ~~certain~~ of peace. And look an instant, too, on what you left behind at last, ~~and~~ finally passed by. This was the ego - all the cruel hate, the need for vengeance and the cries of pain, the fear of dying and the urge to kill, the brotherless illusions and the self that seemed alone in all the universe.

This terrible mistake about yourself the miracle corrects as gently as a loving mother sings her child to rest. ^{it} Is not a song like this what you would hear? Would ~~you~~ not answer all you thought to ask, and even make the question meaningless? ^{it} Your questions have no answer, being made to still God's Voice, Which asks of everyone one question only: "Are you ready yet to help Me save the world?" Ask this instead of what the ego is, and you will see a sudden brightness cover up the world the ego made. No miracle is now withheld from anyone. The world is saved from what you thought it was. And what it is, is wholly uncondemned and wholly pure.

The miracle forgives; the ego damns. Neither need be defined except by this. Yet could a definition be more sure, or more in line with what salvation ^{is?} ~~asks?~~ Problem and answer lie together here, and having met at last the choice is clear. Who chooses hell when it is recognized? And who would not go on a little while when it is given him to understand the way is short and Heaven is ~~his~~ his goal. (the end)?

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Forgiveness is for God and toward God but not of Him. It is impossible to think of anything He created that could need forgiveness. Forgiveness, then, is an illusion, but because of its purpose, which is the Holy Spirit's, it has one difference. Unlike all other illusions, it leads away from error and not towards it. Forgiveness might be called a kind of happy fiction; a way in which the unknowing can bridge the gap between their perception and the truth. They cannot go directly from perception to knowledge because they do not think it is their will to do so. This makes God appear to be an enemy instead of what He really is. And it is just this insane perception that makes them unwilling merely to rise up and to return to Him in peace.

And so they need an illusion of Help because they are helpless; a Thought of peace because they are in conflict. God knows what His Son needs before he asks. He is not at all concerned with form, but having given the content it is His Will that it be understood. And that suffices. The form adapts itself to need; the content is unchanging, as eternal as its Creator.

The Face of Christ has to be seen before the memory of God can return. The reason is obvious. Seeing the Face of Christ ^{involves} is perception. No one can look on knowledge. But the Face of Christ ~~is~~ the great symbol of forgiveness. It is salvation. It is the symbol of the real world. Whoever looks on this no longer sees the world. He is as near to Heaven as ^{is} possible outside the gate. Yet from this gate it is no more than a just a step inside. It is the final step. And this we leave to God. ~~It is a symbol,~~ ^{Of Forgiveness} too, but as the symbol of His Will alone it cannot be divided. And so the Unity that it reflects becomes His Will. It is the only thing still in the world in part, and yet the bridge to Heaven.

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God's Will is all there is. We can but go from nothingness to everything; from all to Heaven. Is this a journey? No, not in truth, for truth goes nowhere. But illusions shift from place to place; from time to time. The final step is also but a shift. As a perception it is partly unreal. And yet this part will vanish. What remains is peace eternal and the Will of God. There are no wishes now, for wishes change. Even the wished-for can become unwelcome. That must be so, because the ego cannot be at peace. But Will is constant, as the gift of God. And what He gives is always like Himself.

This is the purpose of the Face of Christ. It is the gift of God to save His Son. But look on this and you have been forgiven. How lovely does the world become in just that single instant when you see the truth about yourself reflected there. Now you are sinless and behold your sinlessness. Now you are holy and perceive it so. And now the mind returns to its Creator; the joining of the Father and the Son, the Unity of unities that stands behind all joining but still beyond them all. God is not seen but only understood. His Son is not attacked but recognized.

~~PERCEPTION - KNOWLEDGE~~
The world you see is an illusion of a world. God did not create it, for what He creates must be eternal as Himself. Yet there is nothing in the world you see that will endure forever. Some things will last in time a little while longer than others. But the time will come when all things visible will have an end. The body's eyes are therefore not the means by which the real world can be seen, for the illusions that they look upon must lead to more illusions (of reality). And so they do. For everything they see not only will not last, but leads itself to thoughts of sin and guilt. While everything that God created is forever without sin and therefore is forever without guilt.

Knowledge is not the remedy for false perception since, being another level, they can never meet. The one correction possible for false perception must be true perception.

It will not endure. But for the time it lasts, it comes to heal. For true perception is a remedy with many names. Forgiveness, salvation, Abonement, true perception, all are one. They are ^{THE} ~~a~~ one beginning with the end to lead to Oneness far beyond themselves. True perception is the means by which the world is saved from sin, for sin does not exist. And it is this that true perception sees.

The world stands like a block before Christ's face. But true perception looks on it as nothing more than just a fragile veil, so easily dispelled that it can last no longer than an instant. ~~And now it cannot fail to die. It see~~
It is seen at last for only what it is. And now it cannot fail to disappear, ^{was} for now there is an empty place made clean and ready. Where destruction ~~is~~ perceived the face of Christ appears, and in that instant is the world forgot, with time forever ended as the world spins into nothingness from where it came.

A world forgiven cannot last. It was the home of bodies. ^{But} ~~With~~ forgiveness looks past bodies. This is its holiness; this is how it heals. The world of bodies ^{is} is the world of sin, for only if there ~~were~~ a body is sin possible. From sin comes guilt as surely ~~as~~ as forgiveness takes ~~all~~ guilt away. And once all guilt is gone what more remains to keep a separated world in place? For place has gone as well, along with time. Only the body makes ^{the} ~~a~~ world seem real, for being separate it could not remain where separation is impossible. Forgiveness proves it is impossible because it sees it not. And what you then will overlook will not be understandable to you, ~~just as its opposite was once your certainty.~~ (just as its presence once had been your certainty.)

This is the shift that true perception brings: What was projected out is seen within, and there forgiveness lets it disappear. For there the altar to the Son is set, and there his Father is remembered. Here are all illusions brought to truth and laid upon the altar. What is seen outside must lie beyond forgiveness, for it seems to be forever sinful. Where is hope while sin is seen as outside? What remedy can guilt expect? But seen within your mind, guilt and forgiveness ~~lie~~ for an instant lie together, side by side, upon one altar. There at last are sickness and its single remedy joined in one healing brightness. God has come to claim His Own. Forgiveness is complete.

And now God's knowledge, changeless, certain, pure and wholly understandable, enters its Kingdom. Gone is perception, false and true alike, Gone is forgiveness, for its task is done. And gone are bodies in the blazing light upon the altar to the Son of God. God knows it is His Own, as it is his. And here They join, for here the face of Christ has shone away time's final instant, and now is the last perception of the world without a purpose and without a cause. For where God's memory has come at last there is no journey, no belief in sin, no walls, no bodies, ^{and} ~~nor~~ the grim appeal of guilt and death ^{is} there snuffed out forever.

O my brothers, if you only knew the peace that will envelop you and hold you safe and pure and lovely in the Mind of God, you could but rush to meet Him ~~where~~ ^{up} where His altar is. Hallowed your Name and His, for they are joined here in this holy place. Here He leans down to lift you ^{up} back to Him, ~~out of~~ ^{to} out of illusions into holiness; out of the world and into ~~timelessness~~ ^{eternity}; out of all fear and given back to Love.

~~There is no need for help to enter Heaven, for you never left.~~ ^{have} But there is need for help ~~beyond~~ ^{of} beyond yourself as you ~~(are)~~ circumscribed by false beliefs ~~about~~ ^{of} your Identity, Which God alone established in reality. Helpers are given you in many forms, although upon the altar ~~They~~ are one. Beyond each one, ~~that~~ there is a Thought of God, and this will never change. But they have names which differ for a time, for time needs symbols, being itself unreal. Their names are legion, but we will not go beyond the names the course itself employs. God does not help because He knows no need. But He creates all Helpers of His Son while he believes his fantasies are true. Thank God for them, ~~for~~ they will lead you home.

The Name of Jesus is the Name of one who was a man, but saw the face of Christ in all his brothers and remembered God. So he became identified with Christ, a man no longer, but at one with God. The man was an illusion, for he seemed to be a separate being, walking by himself, within a body that appeared to hold his self from Self, as all illusions do. Yet who can save unless he sees illusions, and then identifies them as ~~what they are?~~ Jesus remains a Savior because he saw the false without accepting it as true. And ~~xxx~~ Christ needed his form that He might appear to men and save them from their own illusions.

In his complete identification with the Christ, the perfect Son of God, His one creation and His happiness, forever like Himself and one with Him -- Jesus became what all of ~~us~~ ^{you} must be. He led the way for ~~us~~ ^{you} to follow him. He leads ~~us~~ ^{you} back to God because he saw the road before him, and he followed it. He made a clean distinction, still obscure to ~~us~~ ^{you}, between the false and true. He offered ~~us~~ ^{you} a final demonstration ~~that~~ is impossible to kill God's Son; nor can his life in any way be changed by sin and evil, malice, fear ~~or~~ ^{for} death. And therefore all your sins have been forgiven ~~you~~ because they carried no effects at all. And so they were but dreams. Arise with him who showed you this because you owe him this who shared ~~it~~ your dreams that they might be dispelled. And shares them still, to be at one with you.

Is he the Christ? O yes, along with you. His little life on earth was not enough to teach the mighty lesson that he learned for all of ~~us~~ ^{you}. He will remain with you to lead you from the hell you made to God. And when you join your will with his, your sight will be his vision, for the eyes of Christ are shared. Walking with him is just as natural as walking with a brother whom you knew since you were born, for such indeed he is. Some bitter idols have been made of him who would be only brother to the world. Forgive him your illusions, and behold how dear a brother he would be to you. For he will set your mind at rest at last and carry it with you unto your God.

Is he God's only Helper? No indeed. For Christ takes many forms with different names until their oneness can be recognized. But Jesus is for you the bearer of Christ's single message of the Love of God. You need no other. It is possible to read his words and benefit from them without accepting him into your life. Yet he would help you yet a little more if you will share your pains and joys with him, and leave them both to find the peace of God. Yet still it is his lesson most of all that he would have you learn, and it is this:

"There is no death because the Son of God is like his Father. Nothing you can do can change Eternal Love. Forget your dreams of sin and guilt, and come with me instead to share the resurrection of God's Son. And bring with you all those whom He has sent to you to care for as I care for you."

Jesus is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, Whom he called down upon the earth after he ascended into Heaven, or became completely identified with the Christ, the Son of God as He created him. The Holy Spirit, being a creation of the One Creator, creating with ^Hhim and in His likeness or Spirit, is eternal and has never changed. He was "called down upon the earth" in the sense that it was now possible to accept Him and to hear His Voice. His is the Voice for God, and ^{has} is therefore taken ⁱⁿ form. This form is not His reality, which God alone knows along with Christ, His real Son, Who is part of Him.

The Holy Spirit is described throughout the course as giving ^{us} the answer to the separation and bringing the plan of the Atonement to ^{us} ~~me~~, establishing our particular part in it, and showing ^{us} ~~us~~ exactly what it is. He has established Jesus as the leader in carrying out this plan, since he was the first to complete his own part perfectly. All power in Heaven and earth is therefore given him, and he will share it with you when you have completed yours. The Atonement principle was given to the Holy Spirit long before Jesus set it in motion.

The Holy Spirit is described as the remaining communication link between God and His separated sons. In order to fulfill this special function, the Holy Spirit has assumed a dual function; He knows because He is part of God. He perceives because He

was sent to save humanity. He is the great correction principle; the bringer of true perception, the inherent power of the vision of Christ. He is the light in which the forgiven world is ~~finally~~ perceived; in which the face of Christ alone is seen. He never forgets the Creator or His Creation. He never forgets the Son of God. He ~~never~~ forgets you. And He brings the Love of your Father to you in an eternal shining that will never be obliterated because God has put it there.

The Holy Spirit abides in the part of your mind that is part of the Christ Mind. He represents your Self and your Creator, Who are One. He speaks for God and also for you, being joined with both. And therefore it is He Who proves them One. He seems to be a Voice, for in that form He speaks God's Word to you. He seems to be a Guide through a far country, for you need that form of help. He seems to be whatever meets the needs you think you have. But He is not deceived when you perceive your self entrapped in needs you do not have. It is from these He would deliver you. It is from these that He would make you safe.

You are His manifestation in this world. Your ~~Brother~~ calls to you to be His Voice along with him. Alone he cannot be the Helper of God's Son, for he alone is functionless. But joined with you he is the shining savior of the world, whose part in its redemption you have made complete. He offers thanks to you as well as him, for you arose with him when he began to save the world. And you will be with him when time is over, and no trace remains of dreams of spite in which you dance to death's thin melody. For in its place the hymn to God is heard a little while. And then the ~~Voice~~ is gone, no longer to take form but to return to the eternal Formlessness of God.

Forget not once this journey ~~x~~ is begun the end is certain. Doubt along the way will come and go and go to come again. Yet is the ending sure. No one can fail to do what God appointed him to do. When you ~~forget~~^{froget}, remember that you walk with Him and with His Word upon your heart. Who could despair when Hope like this is his? Illusions of despair may seem to come, but learn how ^{to} not be deceived by them. Behind each one there is reality and there is God. Why would you wait for this, and trade it for illusions, when His Love is but an instant farther on the road where all illusions end? The end is sure, and guaranteed by God. Who stands before a lifeless image when a step away the Holy of the Holies opens up an ancient door that leads beyond the world? You are a stranger here,, But you belong to Him Who loves you as He loves Himself. Ask but my help to roll the stone away, and it is done according to His Will.

We have begun the journey. Long ago the end was written in the stars, and set into the Heavens with a shining ray that ~~held it~~ held it safe within eternity and through all time as well. And holds it still; unchanged, unchanging and unchangeable. Be not afraid. We only start again an ancient journey long ago begun that but seems new. We have begun again upon a road we travelled on before and lost our way a little while. And now we try again. Our new beginning has the certainty the journey lacked till now. Look up and see His Word among the stars where He has set your name along with His. Look up and find your certain destiny the world would hide but God would have you see.

Let us wait here in silence, and kneel down ~~and~~ instant in our gratitude to Him Who called to us and helped us ~~hear~~ hear His Call. And then let us arise and go in faith along the way to Him. Now we are sure we do not walk alone. For God is here, and with Him all our brothers. Now we know that we will never lose the way again. The song begins again which had been stopped ~~(stilled)~~ only an instant, though it seemed to be unsung forever. What is here begun will grow in life and strength and hope, until the world is still

an instant, and forgets all that the dream of sin had made of it.

Let us go out to meet the newborn world, knowing that Christ has been reborn in it, and that the holiness of this rebirth will last forever. We had lost our way, but He has found it for us. Let us ^{go} ~~come~~ and bid Him welcome Who returns to us to celebrate salvation and the end of all we thought we made. The ~~(rising)~~ morning star of this new day looks on a different ~~day~~ world where God is ~~at~~ welcomed and His Son with Him. We who complete Him ~~are~~ offer thanks to Him, as ~~(quiet)~~ (quiet)~ He gives thanks to us. The Son is still ~~(?)~~, and in the ~~peace that~~ God has given him enters his home and is at peace at last. *

~~*and there is still at last.~~

~~enters the stillness of his home at last.~~

~~enters his home in stillness and in peace.~~

(Decmeber 3, 1975)