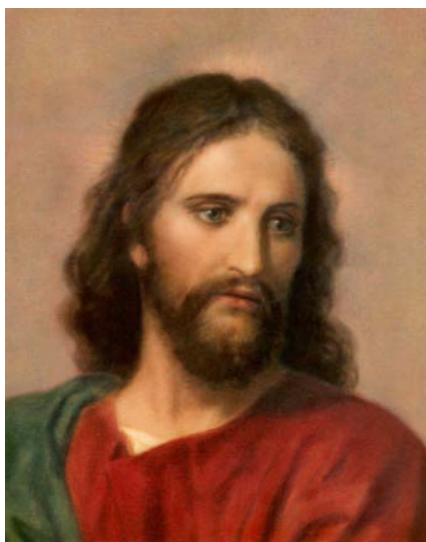


# A Course In Miracles



A Course In Miracles book, commonly called "*The Course*" or ACIM is a unique, self-study spiritual thought system that teaches the way to love and inner peace is through Forgiveness. In this regard, its aim is to assist its reader in achieving spiritual transformation. The book describes a purely non-dualistic philosophy and includes daily practical lessons and applications for healing our wrong perceptions. Some have called it, the Christian Vedanta.

Helen Schucman, a Jewish woman and professor of medical psychology at Columbia University wrote the book with the help of William Thetford (scribe) a university professor colleague. The work ascribes Jesus as the sole author based on what Helen called the "inner voice."

The miracle in *The Course* is that you learn how to forgive yourself, others, and the world. Normally, true forgiveness is not an everyday experience/occurrence. The book discusses deep relationships and interactions we have with others and our creator. It has examples of affirmations that can be used and applied to life situations. The end goal is to reach and experience oneness with our creator. *The Course* tells us when this happens we have no control over this personal experience, God takes the final step.

It is three books in one: a Text that offers the philosophy of pure non-duality, a workbook to apply to daily life, and a manual for teachers. Its goal is for you to have the experience of forgiveness for yourself and to have happiness and peace. It explains the basis for fear and guilt, and how they can be overcome through miracles, maximal "expressions of love." A miracle is defined as the shift in perception from fear to love.

Many mainstream Christian religions may be quick to denounce *The Course* because it lays claim to have inner revelation and wisdom of God outside of the Bible. However, this laborious work of about 1157 pages, not including the manual for teachers, cannot

be written off so easily. It is undeniable that serious study of this esoteric work will lead to a closer walk with the Creator, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus.

*The Course* expresses itself as one version of the universal curriculum. It is clearly not meant for everyone; deep knowledge does not give up her secrets easily. It is written in what must be described as having elements of Elizabethan prose and Shakespearean verse. Those of an intellectual nature who like solving mysteries and puzzles will feel right at home. Many prominent in the new age movement have read this great work. These psycho-spiritual writings are mystical and esoteric in nature and can take several years to grasp to the untrained. There are clear passages of intuitional brilliance and transformation that reach the higher mind and yet there are contorted, strangely drawn-out passages, which at first appear incoherent, like trying to unlock the mystery of a great parable or novel. Many study groups of *The Course* abound; however is not necessary to attend them, although it would help one comprehend much sooner.

Although *The Course* is part of the new-thought movement, it keeps classic Christian terminology as God the Father, and the Holy Spirit or the Voice for God, and Christ the Son of God. Feminist groups may be turned off, as the words woman and women aren't mentioned at all. One may get the impression it's a father-son club exclusively. If you can get over this, it will be a liberating and enlightening read. *The Course* says some audacious things. Here are a few examples:

- We are all sons of God NOW, albeit perhaps ignorant of this fact.
- The world is illusionary. The absolute reality or truth is God and oneness, the Kingdom of God, the eternal, our true home. Our earthly existence and the material universe is considered impermanent, a dream. The ultimate illusion is the belief in our separation from God, which creates all our problems.
- God didn't create the universe; that eons ago we separated from God; implying that we evolved/reincarnated through matter, animal life, and now into the human form; that the last vestige is to give up the ego and go back to God.
- God does not judge us, nor condemn us. We do those ourselves internally. Judgment is the thought system of the world. It does not exist in heaven.
- We project our negative thoughts upon others and the world and blame them for our suffering, creating the illusion that they had sinned against us and stole our happiness.
- Not only should we not kill one another as the bible says, but *The Course* expounds that we should not "attack" in anyway; that means THOUGHT, WORD, or DEED. A high bar for sure. By attacking, you make the world real and eventually attack your very self, directly or indirectly.
- Forgiveness undoes the blocks that separate us from our internal self and others, allowing us to experience oneness, the fact that we are one.

*The Course* cuts the ego no slack, and addresses the fact that it has lost its way and needs training and knowledge. Everyday, the ego sabotages us in countless ways. Earl Purdy, teacher of *The Course*, addresses this fact when he says: "*The Course gives you 1162 pages just to get you to the point of letting me help you. That it takes all of this, just to treat ourselves right or let other people be.*" All the ego sees is a world of attack devoid of God's unified purpose. On this point, *The Course* is ready to assist and open the curtains of perception and let the sunlight in. Like manna from Heaven, *The Course* reaches deeper levels of the knowledge-starved intellect and exposes finer thoughts of realization, hard to express, of our human-spiritual condition. On closing, *The Course* gets the last word:

*"The course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance." - Introduction*

