

THE VALUE OF LISTENING FOR GUIDANCE

So often one listens for Guidance to find out, hopefully, that the listener is right, or was right before they listened. This is what the Course calls a pseudo question, because it has a bias to it in the asking. Just remember that after you have heard you can tear the answer to pieces. You can argue it, you can discuss it at length with your Guidance.

But to listen humbly means to be willing to hear whatever is provided, whether it supports the position you think you hold, or the attitude you are practicing that seems valuable to you, no matter what. Listening humbly is a willingness to be loved on love's terms. That's the way you let in..

And so one can come to the point where humiliation is seen as a most valuable experience, because it leads to humility. Can I say that it leads to genuine helplessness, a horrible concept as far as the ego is concerned. But when one is genuinely helpless, one has no arrogance. And one also has no confidence in himself. Again, a terrible concept from the standpoint of the ego. But it is essential for a strong willed person to arrive at that point, so that his willfulness can no longer get in the way of his fulfillment. that you will enjoy without the pressure of circumstances, shall I say, waking up with grace. (not because you have earned it)

You know something? Just being willing to assume that there is a source of clarity and wholeness and fulfillment that you are not personally responsible for, and which you do not have to bear the burden of, ought to be enough for you to begin to play with listening—not do play listening—but play with really listening, on the outside chance that perhaps there might really be a God, there might really be those who are not suffering from whatever ignorance's you might be, who stand ready to support you in discovering your wholeness just because you exist, and I will take this opportunity to point out that my time spent with Helen Schucman was also not a special instance. .

Because of this you could say that you have constant help at becoming a fully realized Being, if I may put it that way. Your very essential Being is insisting upon being fully realized. And so there is help and it comes when there is a little willingness. Willfulness blocks it absolutely..

Some people, like Paul, arrive at that point as a result of tremendous frustration and humiliation, and a sense of being a total failure, which is most certainly uncomfortable. But even Paul found a new meaning to the

word humiliation. For him it was the precursor of humility. And it was one of the kindest experiences he has ever had because it removed from him false trust, and it removed from him confidences that had gotten in the way of his being able to be on the beam, on the Homing beacon, if you will..

Again, no one has to be pressed all the way to the wall. No one has to be, unless there is a strong will, and a great determination to express it. This is a kind of circumstance that the Holy Spirit can turn to your advantage. But in the turning of it to your advantage, you will say, "All hell has broken loose. I'm failing," etc. But that's the way breakthrough is experienced in the face of great determined self-confidence and willfulness..

Do not distance yourself from experiencing the companionship, the divine companionship that is available to you by saying, "what's happening with Paul is a special instance that somehow doesn't apply to me." That is an excellent way of distancing yourself from your own good, and your opportunity to experience your integrity. .

And again, if that is bought into, everyone who buys into it will be saying, "that can't happen to me." And your word will be your law. And you will distance yourself from it, whereas every student of the Course should by virtue of the very existence of the Course feel heartened, encouraged to be open to the same sort of Guidance that Helen got. It doesn't mean you will write a book. But it does mean that you will have that companionship which will greatly help you in your process of Awakening, because you will have encouragement where you feel not the courage..

~excerpt from early conversations with Raj/JESUS

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