

THE ART OF LISTENING FOR GUIDANCE....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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 (not because you have earned it) that you will enjoy without the pressure of circumstances, shall I say, waking up with grace.

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 for those of you who are students of A Course In Miracles, I will take this opportunity to point out that my time spent with Helen Schucman was also not a special instance. And although there have been some expressions of the fact, or the idea—not the fact—the idea that everyone else can’t expect the same sort of relationship with me or with Guidance that she experienced, is untrue. It is an attempt to elevate her, and to elevate the Course into a false position of religious respect, whether it is stated that way or not.

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.

Who you really are and have always been, and can never stop being is constantly—because it is the truth—insisting upon being fully realized.

And so, it is like the light constantly pressuring the darkness, constantly undoing your false sense of everything, or I will say, insisting upon undoing the ego concepts that blind you to who you are. Which is why the human experience is one of defending one's self, because the ego must constantly reinforce itself to overcome the constant undoing that is caused by the assertion of who you really are so that it may penetrate your present experience of being conscious, and cause you to remember fully who you are.

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.

So this is not a special instance, and when it happens to you it may seem quite amazing by comparison with what has been your normal experience. But that will pass, and it will begin to be very normal. Except that that normalcy will move you rapidly into fuller and fuller realization, into being more and more fully realized.

So there is nothing special about being in touch with guidance, even though the experience is wonderful beyond your imagination, because it moves you into being Awake.

~Raj/JESUS

Conducted by the Northwest Foundation for ACIM