

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUST AND CONFIDENCE....AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST

For those of you who are familiar with "A Course In Miracles" and the "Teachers Manual," you are aware that the first indicator, the first identifier of a teacher ...of God--which is another way of identifying the Son of God or Daughter of God--is trust. Now, literally, this is addressed to those who are still sleeping and dreaming a dream and thinking the dream is real. Trust is essential, because in order for you to come into the full stature of who you divinely Are, you must abandon your present sense of who you are; your roles, your position, your sense of stature relative to someone else. You cannot depend upon your conditioned thinking.

There is a difference between trust and confidence, and most often what you call trust is a practice of confidence. Understand that confidence is a willingness to commit to something that you are already familiar with. That's what confidence is. Trust is a willingness to commit yourself to the unknown; that's why it is such a big word. And that's why it comes first. Now, I told you yesterday not to value your understanding too much and also don't value your reason too much, at least not when it comes to your growth, your spiritual growth or your process of awakening. But that doesn't mean it is not valuable. Any truly valuable religious teaching helps to express in thousands of different ways the Allness of God and the nature of God as Love. Why? So that you who do value reasoning and thinking highly might have a context in which you can arrive at such a clear conviction as to the Allness of God, that you can dare to abandon your present sense of yourself and trust into God, trust into the unknown.

Paul was not willing to let go of his best thinking and his best judgments and his metaphysically correct thoughts, because they had worked very well for him. And he had been taught that this was where it was at; that his clearer and clearer perception of truth, his clearer and clearer reasoning about truth, would be that which thinking would bring about his ascension, his awakening. He would never have connected with me if his [thinking], clear and correct as it was, hadn't failed him. And yet, it was essential for that to happen, just as it has been essential for you to lose your job. So that your very high level of self-confidence, with a small

"s," might become more obviously less desirable and less trustworthy, less of a place to place your confidence.

And so as to promote your succumbing--meaning giving up your best concepts of what is right--and opening up, becoming defenseless against the Father's Will, which is truly your will when you are in your Right Mind, when you are not confused. To the ego it feels like catastrophe; it is disastrous; it is humiliating. But imagine if you will, a little canoe on a big river and you have a paddle and the current is strong; you can wear yourself out trying to fight the current, but you will not overcome it. And you can say, "Oh, I want to go where the river is going, but I want to go my way. I want to be a little bit closer to the shore. I want the movement to be a little slower." And what happens? You paddle real hard and you work up a sweat and it is hard and you feel good about how well you have dealt with the current. And you get over where the current is a little bit slower and while you're there, you notice this beautiful sandy beach and verdant fields and beautiful mountains and you say, "Wow, I'd like to stay here awhile. I'd like to step out of the boat."

Now, the river represents the Movement of God, which I have referred to as the movement of your capital "B" Being. The more you exert willfulness, determination to not be where the current would take you, the more you are at odds with your essential Being, the more you are at odds with the Movement of Life. Now, Life itself comes along and grabs your paddle away from you; and some of you complain at the inconsiderateness of life, and some of you get the message and rejoice, because you find your peace in yielding to the current of the river. Some of you have fashioned anchors so that you are safe but not subject to the unknown, because the river can't carry you where you can't see. And I am coming along, and I am saying, "Cut the anchor. Throw away the paddle." And indeed in your case, if life has grabbed the paddle away from you, I say, "Don't try to recover it. Don't waste your energy paddling with your hands. Lay back in your canoe and watch what the Father unfolds."

This is very important. Everyday, you and everyone else need to get up in the morning and acknowledge that if anything is going on at all, it must truly be God Moving--Being the Movement of Creation. Do not think that creation occurred seventy-five million years ago and that life is just a perpetual motion machine that God set into motion way back when. God

is alive and well and Creation is occurring at this very moment. If anything is going on at all, it must necessarily be that Movement of Creation.

And so, every single one of you must dare to look at the circumstances or experiences that seem to be not in your best interest and not representative of a Loving and Omnipresent God. And you must be willing to say, "There must be another way to look at this." You must be willing to say, "Nothing that I see means what I am currently interpreting it to mean." And then you must dare to become curious as to where God is in it and where the evidence of a loving, intelligent, indivisible and therefore unconflicted God is.

I understand that that is not what your egos will agree with. But you must be UNWILLING to agree with the way your ego sees it, or you will never see beyond it. If you listen to what your ego says, you will in effect fashion a new paddle or wear your arms out trying to take control again. And the fulfillment that it is your birthright to be experiencing, visibly and tangibly, will seem not to be there for you.

~excerpt from a Gathering with Raj/JESUS, Boston 1992
Conducted by the Northwest Foundation for ACIM