

A Smidgen Of Willingness Is All It Takes!

With ACIM

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A Smidgen Of Willingness Is All It Takes!

What if every moment of your experience was literally being brought to you of the Father, Who alone knows the perfect plan for the healing of your mind? (Q.1)

The *Way of the Heart*, requires only the *continued* little willingness to surrender any and all limited perceptions of what Life is, and what awakening is, and what Love is, and what healing is, so that the Holy Spirit can guide you into the Truth of all things. (Q.4)

When, from the depth of your being, you have *fully committed* to awakening from every last trace of separation from God, when you are truly committed to *not* seeking for Love, but you are willing to seek for all of the obstacles that have been created within you that block the awareness of Love's presence, then, indeed, what you find yourself attracted to, what you find yourself deciding for, in terms of the experiences that you would call to yourself, these things are the answer to your prayer. My *Course in Miracles* came to your life as the result of your own longing to deepen your relationship with God!

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You Can Love Only As God Loves!

God established His relationship with you to make you happy, and nothing you do that does not share His purpose can be Real. The purpose God ascribed to anything is its only function. Because of His reason for creating His relationship with you, the function of relationships became forever "to make happy." And nothing else. (T 357)

You forgot that Real relationships are Holy, and cannot be used by you at all. They are used only by the Holy Spirit, and it is that which makes them pure. (T 263) You cannot enter into Real relationships with any of God's Sons unless you love them all and equally. Love is not special. If you single out part of the Sonship for your love, you are imposing guilt on all your relationships and making them unreal. You can Love only as God Loves. (T 265)

Therefore, understand this well: Relationship is the means to your salvation. But the fundamental relationship that must be rectified, must be nourished, must be healed, must be cultivated, is your direct and immediate union with, and communication with, your Creator. When this is established, the soul rests in Perfect Peace. It has far transcended the impulse to be the doer and the maker. It looks out upon a world completely forgiven; in your language, "let off the hook." (Q.17)

The Holy Relationship reflects the True relationship the Son of God has with his Father in Reality. The Holy Spirit rests within it in the certainty it will endure forever. Its firm foundation is eternally upheld by Truth, and Love shines on it with the gentle smile and tender blessing it offers to its own. Here the unholy instant is exchanged in gladness for the Holy one of safe return. Here is the way to True relationships held gently open, through which you and your brother walk together, leaving the body thankfully behind and resting in the Everlasting Arms. Love's arms are open to receive you, and give you peace forever. (T 438)

Include Yourself In The Circle Of Your Love!

One does not look out and see a world that must be saved. One no longer looks out and sees a world in travail. One merely becomes the servant of the extension of Love and makes no pretense that it knows beforehand what that should look like. But in every moment and with every breath, that mind merely asks within, Father, what would you have me do this day? How might I be of service as your Plan for the Atonement is achieved in human consciousness? One learns to listen to that Inner Voice that might very well say, I want you to establish hospices in every city in the world. Begin now. (Q.17)

That same Voice might say to you, Go and sit by the park this day and forget the world. Breathe deeply of the angel of air. Let the angels of sound of the running waters fill your soul. Nourish yourself today. Go watch a movie, play with your friends, read a good book, have a cup of tea. Those that believe spirituality rests on how much service is given to the oppressed might never hear the Voice that says, *include yourself in the circle of your Love.*

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My One Intent Is To Reveal To You The Place Within You That Is The Presence Of Love That You Seek!

I say unto you: If you will choose to trust me, I will show you the way to peace. I will wait for your reply as I can do nothing to take from you the freedom required to become wholly committed to allowing Christ to be birthed where once a useless illusion reigned. I will show you how to become the being out of which all of creation is arising so that you will know the Truth that sets you free.

Understand well: There is no one and there shall not at any time be anyone who reads these words to whom I have not given this promise unto. *I will show you the way to the Truth that is true always and sets you free.* (WM 90) But only you can make the decision to bring the whole of your being to that journey. And all it requires is what you call a smidgen of willingness. *A smidgen of willingness is all it takes.* (WM 91)

I know the way home because I have completed the journey, and I will show you the way. With every word that I utter, *my one intent is to reveal to you the place within you that is the presence of Love that you seek.*

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I Can Guide You and I Can Show You The Way!

What if you chose to actually commit yourself to considering what I am sharing, and return to the innocence of a child, as you contemplated what it would mean in your life? Rest assured, when the journey *to* the Kingdom is completed, the journey *within* It begins anew. The bliss, the wisdom, the creativity, the laughter, the friendships, the family, the joy, the serenity, and the peace – that have been, for the most part, seen as an impossible dream – will become your most ordinary state of being.

Yet, none of it can occur through any power that can move through me. I can guide you. I can show you the way. And I can walk beside you on the way that you have chosen. At times, I can give you my strength until yours is as certain as mine, by carrying you. But ultimately, you must *demand* that I put you down so that *your* feet touch the soil of the Kingdom of Heaven and *you* walk, under *your* strength, under *your* certainty, beside me.

Learn to Love your Self and cry out to this world: *I and my Father are one! That is the soil from which I move and live and have my being. So be it!*

Always remember that the Father looked upon His only creation and said, "Behold, it is very good!" That goodness has a name and it is yours! And behold, it is very good! That Light deserves to shine! The doorway stands before you. Will you open it through the *power* of your choice? For what you experience will reveal to you what choice you have made this day. (WM 92)

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Only *That Voice Within* You Can Perfectly Inform Your Actions In The World!

Remember always that each mind literally creates its lived experience in this domain. There is no such thing as victimization. And oppression does not come from without. Oppression is a perception created within that mind. Anyone who looks upon the history of humanity can recognize many instances in so-called oppressive situations where individuals have simply chosen not to be oppressed, and have moved with freedom and with dignity, even into what appears to be death.

Therefore, awakening requires that all vestiges of the world mind are cast aside and one rests in that Perfect Truth which can inform perfect action, right action, through you. Again, the fulcrum of what I am sharing rests on this: Without the interiorization process of cultivating the healing of your misperception that you've ever been separate from God, without cultivating deep Self-Love – not love of ego, but Love of Self – without *that*, the deep silence required wherein one hears the Voice of the Comforter is never achieved. *And only that Voice, the right-mindedness within you, can perfectly inform your actions in the world.* (Q.17)

Therefore, he who follows me, indeed, journeys to the desert for forty days and forty nights, and leaves his friends and disciples and businesses and associates to go off and be alone for prayer, for cultivating daily the process of seeking first the Kingdom . . . that all things, including how you can be of service, might be added unto you. Think not for yourself, but Love the Self enough to surrender the world into God's hands. And see it not as a place that needs you to fix it. For, of yourself, you can do nothing. I am the vine and you are the branches. Remember always that, without the Christ Mind dwelling within you, that of yourself, you can do nothing. And your service, though laudable in the eyes of the world, means nothing.

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If All I Want Is The Peace Of God, How Do I Get It?

Take just a moment or two and abide. Merely say within the mind, quietly: It is not possible for me to be without Love. I and my Father are one! This is the Truth about me, and I want only the Truth. (WM 252)

"I want the peace of God." To say these words is nothing. But to mean these words is everything. If you could but mean them for just an instant, there would be no further sorrow possible for you in any form; in any place or time. Heaven would be completely given back to full awareness, memory of God entirely restored, the resurrection of all creation fully recognized. (WL 185)

No one can mean these words and not be healed. He cannot play with dreams, nor think he is himself a dream. He cannot make a hell and think it real. He wants the peace of God, and it is given him. For that is all he wants, and that is all he will receive. Many have said these words. But few indeed have meant them. You have but to look upon the world you see around you to be sure how very few they are. The world would be completely changed, should any two agree these words express the only thing they want.

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To Mean You Want The Peace Of God Is To Renounce All Dreams!

Two minds with one intent become so strong that what they will becomes the Will of God. For minds can only join in Truth. In dreams, no two can share the same intent. To each, the hero of the dream is different; the outcome wanted not the same for both. Loser and gainer merely shift about in changing patterns, as the ratio of gain to loss and loss to gain takes on a different aspect or another form.

Yet compromise alone a dream can bring. Sometimes it takes the form of union, but only the form. The meaning must escape the dream, for compromising is the goal of dreaming. Minds cannot unite in dreams. They merely bargain. And what bargain can give them the peace of God? Illusions come to take His place. And what He means is lost to sleeping minds intent on compromise, each to his gain and to another's loss.

To mean you want the peace of God is to renounce all dreams. For no one means these words who wants illusions, and who therefore seeks the means which bring illusions. He has looked on them, and found them wanting. Now he seeks to go beyond them, recognizing that another dream would offer nothing more than all the others. Dreams are one to him. And he has learned their only difference is one of form, for one will bring the same despair and misery as do the rest.

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Are There Any Other Conditions Necessary For Achieving The “Peace of God?”

The mind which means that all it wants is peace must join with other minds, for that is how peace is obtained. And when the wish for peace is genuine, the means for finding it is given, in a form each mind that seeks for it in honesty can understand. Whatever form the lesson takes is planned for him in such a way that he can not mistake it, if his asking is sincere. But if he asks without sincerity, there is no form in which the lesson will meet with acceptance and be truly learned.

Let us devote our practicing to recognizing that we really mean the words we say. We want the peace of God. This is no idle wish. These words do not request another dream be given us. They do not ask for compromise, nor try to make another bargain in the hope that there may yet be one that can succeed where all the rest have failed. To mean these words acknowledges illusions are in vain, requesting the eternal in the place of shifting dreams which seem to change in what they offer, but are one in nothingness.

Devote your practice periods to careful searching of your mind, to find the dreams you cherish still. What do you ask for in your heart? Forget the words you use in making your requests. Consider but what you believe will comfort you, and bring you happiness. But be you not dismayed by lingering illusions, for their form is not what matters now. Let not some dreams be more acceptable, reserving shame and secrecy for others. They are one. And being one, one question should be asked for all of them, "Is this what I would have, in place of Heaven and the peace of God?"

This is the choice you make. Be not deceived that it is otherwise. No compromise is possible in this. You choose God's peace, or you have asked for dreams. And dreams will come as you requested them. Yet will God's peace come just as certainly, and to remain with you forever. It will not be gone with every twist and turning of the road, to reappear, unrecognized, in forms which shift and change with every step you take.

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No One Who *Truly* Seeks The Peace Of God Can Fail To Find It!

You want the peace of God. And so do all who *seem* to seek for dreams. For them as well as yourself, you ask but this when you make this request with deep sincerity. For thus you reach to what they really want, and join your own intent with what they seek above all things, perhaps unknown to them, but sure to you. You have been weak at times, uncertain in your purpose, and unsure of what you wanted, where to look for it, and where to turn for help in the attempt. Help has been given you. And would you not avail yourself of it by sharing it?

No one who truly seeks the peace of God can fail to find it. For he merely asks that he deceive himself no longer by denying to himself what is God's Will. Who can remain unsatisfied who asks for what he has already? Who could be unanswered who requests an answer which is his to give? The peace of God is yours.

For you was peace created, given you by its Creator, and established as His Own eternal gift. How can you fail, when you but ask for what He wills for you? And how could your request be limited to you alone? No gift of God can be unshared. It is this attribute that sets the gifts of God apart from every dream that ever seemed to take the place of Truth.

No one can lose and everyone must gain whenever any gift of God has been requested and received by anyone. God gives but to unite. To take away is meaningless to Him. And when it is as meaningless to you, you can be sure you share one Will with Him, and He with you. And you will also know you share one Will with all your brothers, whose intent is yours.

It is this one intent we seek today, uniting our desires with the need of every heart, the call of every mind, the hope that lies beyond despair, the Love that attack would hide, the brotherhood that hate has sought to sever, but which still remains as God created it. With Help like this beside us, can we fail today as we request the peace of God be given us?

Rest assured, purification will be occurring in the depth of the mind. Each of you will experience it in your own way. But you will experience it. Remember always that the only thing that can be transformed *is* the mind. It is by the power of the mind itself that purification occurs. (WM 252)

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Become Willing To Be One Who Cultivates The Ability To Allow All Things!

Just as desire is essential to realization, so too is willingness or allowance. You have heard us say unto you many times that you are required only to offer a little willingness, just what you call a "smidgen." Measure out a smidgen of willingness, which is the same as allowance, and sprinkle it upon your experiences. Sprinkle it across the world. Sprinkle it upon your own being.

Become willing to be one who cultivates the ability to allow all things. The mind that is free can do this. The mind that is imprisoned cannot. For the mind that is imprisoned *is* so because it insists that what it perceives should become different *in itself*, but that the perceiver need not change. And that is the very essence of imprisonment. (WM 253)

One who cultivates that ability to allow is cultivating, in Truth, the very act of forgiveness. It is releasing the world from its insistence that its perceptions be held as right. It is releasing from *itself* the need to hold on to its perceptions. Therefore, allow all things. Trust all things. And thereby, embrace and transcend all things.

Allowance follows on the heels of desire. For when you desire the Kingdom above all things, you have no choice but to discover that you must allow the world to be as the world is. For you have not known how the world is. You have only known your perceptions of it. But the Comforter will heal those perceptions. And that requires your little willingness to let your perceptions be changed.

As they are changed, the world magically becomes a different place. It does become transparent and harmless. It becomes virtually valueless, except for the value that the Comforter would give it, while it lasts.

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Allowance Brings A Deepening Sense Of Freedom, Freedom From All Circumstance!

Allowance, beloved friends, is a process of letting go and trusting. It is a process of saying:

I wonder what it would be like to just let things be as they are – to notice them and let them pass by?

Allowance then, is the doorway through which Christ passes into the complete remembrance of Christ. *Allowance brings a deepening sense of freedom – freedom from all circumstance.* For it is your circumstances that you have *believed* have the power to imprison you. But as you choose to relinquish your perception of the world or any circumstance, you discover that you are already abiding in freedom. The power – and that is what freedom is – is a power to create differently. And to create is the effect of what you will choose to see.

Allowance can be thought of as a resistance being melted from the nervous system, which is just an aspect of the mind anyway. Allowance is like the opening of the palms of the hands. Instead of holding on so tightly, you simply let go. What do you let go of? The habit of the need to be right, the habit of the need to perceive that the world is a fearful place. The habit of perceiving that you are in lack. The habit of perceiving that Christ must be far from you. Anything that is unlike the Kingdom of Heaven is a habit well worth releasing by allowing it to be dissolved from your mind.

The essence of this message is the cultivation of allowance. It begins with the willingness to relinquish the lid you have placed upon your own mind, so that you become able, in innocence, to simply observe how it really is – what is really going on down in the basement, without judgment, without fear, without justification, without explanation. It is simply there. (WM 254)

In allowance, you cultivate the very quality of forgiveness. Without forgiveness, it is impossible to awaken into the realization of the Truth that is true always. Why? Because judgment is the opposite of the Kingdom. Where forgiveness is withheld, you are literally making a choice to be outside the Kingdom. You have used the power of the mind to make a decision, out of a desire to hold onto a perception, and thereby, you have generated direct experience. *You* are the one who has kicked yourself out of the garden.

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What Is Forgiveness?

Remember, then, that always forgiveness is *essential*. It is necessary for the Atonement. Forgiveness is another word for allowance. We speak here not of a blind passivity, but of a relinquishment within one's own mind, and that is all. It is a willingness to see the complete neutrality of all events. It is a willingness to let the Comforter remind you that separation does not exist, that you cannot possibly make yourself guilty of sin and all the rest.

Forgiveness is a relinquishment of what you have decided is true about the world. It is, then, very much a self-centered practice. Of yourself, you cannot forgive your brother or sister for anything because, in Reality, they have done nothing. Forgiveness is forgiveness of one's self for insisting on replacing Reality with your own version of it.

Allowance is like the petals of a flower opening to embrace the new dawn of a spring day. Allowance is like the melting of the ice that allows the river to flow. Allowance is the dissolution of fear. Allowance is transformation.

When you have come to allow all things, to trust all things, you will have embraced all things. Only that one who is *larger* than the thing that is embraced can do the embracing. Therefore, whenever you feel imprisoned, it is because you have made yourself *smaller* than the world you perceive. And when you feel free, it is because you have remembered that you are the one from which all things have arisen. *You are* the Son of God. You are the vast sky in which all clouds and storms arise and pass away, while the sky remains unscathed – eternally changeless. *That* is freedom! And the cultivation of freedom is a free-will choice. It is the result of the desire for the Kingdom.

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Because You Desire The Kingdom Above All Else, It No Longer Matters How That Process Is Experienced!

As you come to *truly* forgive yourself for every perception you have ever held about anyone or anything, you will come to discover that it means relinquishing perceptions of yourself as well. For you cannot awaken fully unless you include *yourself* in the circle of your forgiveness. Ultimately, of course, you come to see that the very practice of allowance is really the act of allowing yourself to be truly the Self that you are. You will no longer resist the process of purification, by whatever means the Comforter uses for you. It simply does not matter anymore: Why resist it? All I want is God! (WM 255)

If it is dissolved in the mind in a split second, and you do not even notice it – fine. If it requires great tears and great experiences in the world – fine. What is the difference? They are really the same. It is because you have relinquished – through allowing ownership of your own pathway home. You have decided to let the Comforter *take* you home.

Because you desire the Kingdom above all else, it no longer matters how that process is experienced. You no longer complain that it seems to be taking too long. You simply enjoy yourself in the process itself. You let the Comforter take you by the hand and retrace the steps you once made in error. Each step requires allowance, which is forgiveness born of desire that has been purified of desire for that which imprisons. And it is replaced with the desire for that which sets all things free.

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Establish A Relationship With The Comforter

Once your desire begins and becomes the Kingdom, the end of the journey is perfectly certain. School is out. That which the ego is cannot last. For the very universe, creation, the world around you will conspire – which simply means to breathe together – all things will conspire together under the hand of the Holy Spirit to create *precisely* what you require to be set completely free of all illusion. And secretly, you will have already agreed with the Comforter that it will be this way.

Allowance, then, is equally as important as desire, and is an aspect of that pathway, that foundation, whereby Christ remembers Christ and arises from the ego's ashes to walk upon this plane, and any plane, as the Truth that is true always.

Remember that it is only the ego that will compare and contrast. It is only the egoic mind that thinks about another's path and wonders if perhaps their path is better than your own path. There is *only* the life that you are directly experiencing. And through desire and allowance, that very life comes to be embraced as the *very means* by which the Comforter is dissolving illusion from your mind. Of course, it is all based on the humility of realizing that the ego cannot awaken itself; that the Comforter is that agency, given by Grace, that knows how to bring you home.

I highly recommend that you establish a relationship with the Comforter as though it were a relationship with a good friend – indeed, the *best* of friends – until you reach a point in which virtually every decision is given to that Mind: Well, old buddy, should I turn left or right? (WM 256)

You relinquish ownership of your life. It is only the ego that thinks it can possess life. Spirit knows that Life possesses it. That is, Life has birthed you; the Mind of God has given rise to you. You are God's. You are not the *owner* of Life. You are the *recipient* of it.

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If Your Commitment Is To Christ, Your Commitment Is To The Healing Of Anything That Is Unlike Love!

When you choose healing, when you don't resist what comes up, when you realize that Love trusts all things, embraces all things, allows all things and transcends all things, when you realize that you are merely the bringer of Love, then it doesn't matter what comes up! Oh! This needs healing. And you heal it from an impersonal level. You don't identify with it, even if you think it's linked somehow to something you are quite certain has been part of your past experience. (Q.13)

Sometimes you can't even remember where you put your car keys. How do you know for sure it's from your past? Just heal it. Because when you do that, you are being the perfection of the beingness you are. You are being Christ that is saying, "Come and lay your sins upon the altar of my Heart, and I will heal it for you."

It doesn't matter where it came from. It doesn't matter who caused it. All that matters is the healing. If it comes up and you recognize there's an obstacle, something that requires healing from the perfection of your being, wrap the Love of Christ around it and heal it. And when you do that, you uplift a brother or sister who you may never physically meet.

If your commitment is to Christ, your commitment is to the healing of anything that is unlike Love. It's mere entertainment to try to figure out whether it's your stuff or somebody else's. Does it matter? And is there a separation between you and all of your brothers and sisters? To assist another to heal is to heal yourself. To heal yourself is to uplift another. There is only Love and fear. Ultimately, you are really just healing fear by bringing Love to it.

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I am with you always!

There seem to be many minds and individuals through which Love and fear seem to battle for ascendancy. That is like the waves on top of the ocean. In this realm of experience, you believe that there are many separate minds. Ultimately you are all but an aspect of one another. And there is only one Child of God that exists. Heal what is presented to your consciousness, and stop identifying it as yours. There is Love. There is fear. There is the need to heal, which is the bridge between the two. Will you choose to identify as fear and, therefore, deny Love? Or will you identify yourself as Love and get on with it? If you are abiding in the perfection of your being, I believe the answer becomes self evident.

You will indeed find in that day and hour that as often as you ask it of me, I will ask you, "How do you think we could do this? What would you like to create with me?" And then, indeed, we are as brother and brother, sister and brother, friends, dancing and playing in the Kingdom prepared for us of our Father. (WM 91)

One little shadow cast by a tiny blade of grass is all that seems to prevent you from coming wholly to where I am. If you tarry yet a little longer, it is all right. You cannot prevent me from knowing the Truth about you and loving you. When you are in Love, when you are so immersed in simply loving, is it not true that you have no sense of time at all? There is no sense of any effect disturbing your peace. You are just "swaying to the music." You are loving, and your wholeness grows even more holy.

Therefore, Love one another as I have Loved you. For the Father has first Loved me that I might show you the Truth of what Love is and the Reality of your being. I will not cease in doing this, regardless of how long you choose to tarry. For Love is, indeed, patient and kind. Love is not deluded, and Love does not allow delusion. Love embraces all things, trusts all things, and allows all things. It knows perfectly well where it is going, and never ceases in that journey until every blade of grass is released from casting shadows, and the whole of creation is returned to the Heart of God.

Will you, you who hear these words, will you be willing to be the Light that lights this world, by fully becoming committed, in each moment and with each breath, to the choice for healing through Love and forgiveness? Just something to think about from time to time.

Beloved and holy friends, may peace be with you always. And may the Truth that is true always shine within your hearts and minds throughout all ages. Remember, there's a perfectly good reason why I keep saying, time and again, "*I am with you always.*" (WM 92)

Amen.



To enhance the main topics, this material came from both *The Way of Mastery* and *A Course in Miracles*.

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- WM Book (WM 90-92, 252-256)
- Q Question & Answers (Q.1, Q.4, Q.13, Q.17)

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- WL Workbook Lesson Number 185

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A Smidgen Of Willingness Is All It Takes - with ACIM
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