

# A COURSE IN MIRACLES

## STUDY GROUP

### WITH RAJ

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

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PAUL. ... If you're in the Sparkly Book, it's page 278, a new section entitled Guiltlessness and Invulnerability. If you're in the Second Edition, it's page 236, the beginning of Chapter 13. And the subject is The Guiltless World. If you're in the First Edition, it's page 220, again, the beginning of Chapter 13, and the section- ... The chapter is entitled The Guiltless World. If you're reading from the JCIM, it's page 117, the top of the page; and the section heading is Guiltlessness and Invulnerability.

Okay. ... Let's take a few moments to be quiet together.

(Quiet Time)

ANSWER. Okay. Good Evening.

AUDIENCE. (Responses)

ANSWER. And welcome to everyone who's joining us on the Internet. ... .. Well I'm going to start off the night tonight with something for a new ... yellow post it – or sticky note to put on your refrigerator. It is this: *Thinking ... is not the normal activity ... of your mind.* ... Thinking is not the *normal* activity of your mind. ... .. The *normal* ... – the Divinely Normal ... activity of your mind is ... attention. ... .. It's what I've referred to in the past to the willingness to be present with ... a thing – to be present with someone else – to simply be present with – without pre-conceptions. The normal activity of mind is ... attention. ...

Attention is attentiveness, ... isn't it? Which means ... that attention ... is an expectation ... – an expectation of having something to pay attention to. An expectation ... of experiencing something. ... You could say that *attention* is an invitation to experience. ... ..

It is a ... it is a state of innocence, *if* ... you don't bring into it preconceptions ... – if you don't bring into play *memory* ... – if you ... don't bring into play all of your typical ... knee-jerk mental responses ... – which means your habits of thinking. Attention ... is quiet. It is not an assertion ... of anything. It is a ... receptivity – a willingness to *receive* – an expectation of standing in receipt. ...

Because it is not divided up or *structured* ... by thoughts ... or theories ... or concepts, ... it stands ... un-resistant against ... *All* of Creation. It is a capacity ... to have *Infinite* Experience. ... ..

All of you ... have the capacity to set aside thoughts. And the most typical practice for doing that is called meditation. ... As we've said before: thinking is not synonymous with being conscious. When you allow ... your mind to simply be in the- to simply be not *in* the state of attention, but to *be*, itself, the state of attention ... holiness – holiness of Be-ing ... – holiness of perception ... is available to you.

In the silence of Be-ing the state of attention, revelation can occur: the direct Experience of God Be-ing You – of God's Infinite Mind Be-ing *your* Mind ... becomes available to you. Now, mind you, ... .. what we're talking about becoming available to you, is something ... you originally had. It's something that you *still* have, but you cover over by ... the busyness of your mind – by the busyness of your thinking – by your habits of ... assessing situations, and coming to conclusions – and then basing decisions on those conclusions. And you busy yourself with this *all day long*. ...

But thinking is not the *normal* ... use of mind. It's one of the reasons I talk so much about ... *listening*. Because, even if you're with a friend ... and there is a conversation going on, if you want to hear what the friend is talking about – if you have interest in the subject being discussed, you will shut up so that you can hear. You will become still enough to pay attention ... to what your friend is saying. So you know how ... to still your mind and be quiet long enough to hear. All of you do. It's a capacity you all already have. It's just that you don't realize ... its value – it's ... *life-changing* ... significance ... and importance.

... Ultimately all of you are afraid that if you stopped thinking you would lose your Identity. ... But it's not true. You think ... that if you stopped thinking, ... you would become unable to function in the world. And this is not so. Paul is not thinking right now, but he's functioning in the world.

Intelligence is being expressed. But more than anything, *Love* is being extended. He is letting Love move through him; Love that is finding expression in words that allow transformation to occur in those who are listening. Why? Because what is being shared stands specifically as a useful means ... .. for ... .. *sudden release* from your old ways of thinking, so that an aha! (finger snap) can happen. An insight can occur ... that leaves you in a new place so that you can never *leave*. You can never *really* go back to where you were before the insight happened. ...

You know what? When you let yourself be in the silence ... – when you value ... the *absence* of thinking enough to allow the silence to occur ... .. – and you let yourself be in it without goals ... – you just ... let yourself deserve the experience of Peace, and rest in It, ... sudden shifts of perception do occur. Insights occur. A new experience of something ... around you reveals itself to you. And what happens? You say- Your ... Your mouth opens and: 'Ohh. Oh! Wow!' – comes out. You see?

You're not incapable of *speaking*. You're not in- incapable of communicating that something has happened. But th- But ... what comes out of your mouth becomes an expression of some sort of *awe*: a-w-e. ... Some sort of recognition of ... the *Actuality* of Divinity – of Holiness. ...

What comes out of your mouth ... in Biblical terms – in Biblical terms ... can be called ... praising God ... because it's an *exclamation* of recognition of something meaningful.

Even now, what is coming out of Paul's mouth expresses a recognition of something *meaningful* that *he* is having.

How much better it would be if – as you went through your days – ... what came out of your mouth ... was some form of an expression of awe – some form of praising God. Something which – when heard by others – ... would inspire *them* – would put them at *ease* – would make them feel comfortable, where before they were filled with fear. **15:33:1**

Now, I am talking the way I'm talking because it's in the context of A Course In Miracles. But in a different setting, under different circumstances, I may not say *anything* about God. I may not say anything about Brotherhood. I may not say anything about ... *guiltlessness*. You see? ... And neither will you. You will always be appropriate ... in the setting. And so you will not stand out like a sore thumb, as I've said before. ... ..

Now, what makes thinking so damned valuable to you that you *invest every moment of your ... waking day employing it?* ... Well, you think ... it gives you your identity. You think that the thoughts you think define you. ...

You're a doctor. Your language – the thoughts you think – the *way you reason* ... gives you ... medical identity and ... – *respect*, let's say ... – within the ... medical community. If you are a social worker, your language is expressed in a completely different context; and again, ... we will say: *wins you* happy patients, as well as – let us say – respect among the community of social workers. ...

You're a mother. ... And everything your mother taught you about motherhood that was of value, and perhaps even what wasn't of value, but *you* find valuable, you embody. And, of course, your grandmother is in there somewhere. And your ... great grandmother is in there somewhere as well; and *all* of the means you have to elicit the best from your children ... comes out in the language you use. And it identifies you as a mother – distinctly different from ... a telephone operator ... or a backhoe operator. You see?

And so you fill your mind with the thoughts that give you identity. And the clearer you are about who you are, the better off you are. You say: 'The clearer I am, the more clearly everyone else can see me. The more confused I am, the more confused everyone else will be about me. ... You see? ... ..

Well, how did you pick your rôle? How did you pick your- what identity you were going to employ, so that you would learn the appropriate language? ... .. Well, I'm going to p- rephrase the question: *Why* did you pick a role ... – and then pick a language for expressing that rôle in order to give yourself identity? ...

You did it because you forgot ... that in the silence of your Be-ing – in the State of Be-ing .. Pure Mind – Be-ing Pure Attention – *you* ... are that. And the capacity you have ... in the silence ... of your mind allows your mind to be filled with the Movement of God, that causes you to *speak* ... in praise of God.

It allows you to speak in praise of the *Good* that is obvious to you – *profound* Good that is obvious to you, where ... – when you were ... active in your thinking mind – what you saw seemed to be relatively good. Certainly not awesome. ... Certainly not smacking of ... *holiness*. ... ..

You think ... because you've forgotten ... Who You Are. Now that phrase, you're not unfamiliar with: you have forgotten Who You Are. And the Holy Spirit helps you remember Who You Are. ... And it's ... *almost inevitable* that you all ... *imagine* – spontaneously imagine ... – that Who You Really Are will be ... a new definition – a new rôle.

You'll just know ... that you're a *holy* man –... or a *holy* woman. You'll know that you are mm – let's say – the Presence of God in the world, whatever that might mean. But ... you have the idea that it will be a *new definition*, which will be accompanied with *new* language of expression, that will identify you like the old rôle did. ...

But I want you to listen carefully here. .... What you are ... is not a new set of thoughts. ... What you *are* ... is the *absence* of thoughts. What you are is the silence of *mind* that is attention – *undivided* ... *attention* – whole attention – simple, pure attention. ... ..

Well, that sort of throws you out into the deep blue, doesn't it? Because if you take what I've just said to be the Truth, ... you have no way of anticipating ... what it's going to mean, do you? You have no way to peg ahead of time what it's going to be. And you have no capacity to *assume* that any of the *skills* you've *currently* been employing will be employable, because, after all, they require thinking, don't they?

And if you're not going to be thinking, ... then ... what is going to be happening? You see? ... ..

... .. The Course says that teaching what Love is is beyond the scope of the Course. Well it's beyond the scope of ... *anything* because *Love* ... is What you find yourself filled with when you're willing to stop thinking and go into the Silence ... and say: 'Father, *Thy* Will be done. ... Father, ... let me be filled ... with all that *You* Are Be-ing – right here where I see me. Father, I wish to *yield* ... to the Reality ... of Me ... that has to be going on right here where I thought I had been ... alone, isolated, ... and ... constantly in danger. ... I will listen ... for *Your* Voice. I will stop ... listening for *my* voice ... – meaning my *thinking* ... – my *best practices* of *reason*. ... I will shut up long enough to hear. ... Fill me today with all *Thou* art.' ...

Now that ... that sounds perhaps a little *stilted* ... and formal. I've said it *many times* in a much more simple way – in a much simpler way. I've said: Bring curiosity into play. So that when you look at a thing, or you look in a mirror at yourself, you say: 'What is the *More* that is here than what I'm currently seeing? You see? What *I'm* seeing does not look like the Kingdom of Heaven, but Raj continues to tell me that the only thing that is ever in my face is the Kingdom of Heaven, so there's more here than what I'm seeing. ... And I would like to see It. And I would like to feel It. I would like to experience It.' ...

How do you do that? You shut up ... your mind ... as though ... a communication was occurring ... *so interesting* ... and so *full* of the unexpected that you don't want to miss it! ... .. Because ... no matter *where you are* at this moment, and

no matter what is within your line of sight, It's the Kingdom of Heaven. It is Ultimate Reality, even though that is *not what you're experiencing of It at this moment*. ...

Your use of your mind is exactly what blocks you from experiencing Reality As It Is. ... And the use ... you put your mind to is not its normal use. You put it to the use of thinking. ... 29:58:6

And basically you put it ... to the use of thinking poorly ... about yourselves, and poorly about your brothers and sisters, and poorly about the world. And on and on and on. ...

Now, ... we talked last week ... about ... the great *value* there is to you in your having a brother that has eyes that you can look into ... and that your Function is to look into your brother's eyes and what? Remember God. To have an *insight* – an aha! – a *shift* of perception. It's your Function to look into your brother's eyes and remember God. 30:50:0

... Well, now let's think about it for a moment. Things are not really complicated here, although "*thinking* makes it so." (Shakespeare) If your Function is to look into your brother's eyes and remember God – and thus be blessed yourself, as well as your brother being blessed yourself, what is your *brother's* Function, whose eyes you're looking into? His Real Function – just as yours – is to look into *your* eyes and remember God! ... The Function the two of you have is to bless each other with recognizing ... **God** ... in your sight.

Now, ... if you are busy ...thinking *poorly about yourself*, and you're busy thinking *poorly about your brother* ... – let's say: downright *awfully* about your brother, ... what if your brother is standing there, looking at you and actually remembering God? And you're sitting there or standing there looking – not remembering God – but thinking *awfully* ... *about him* – or her! Are you not ... standing in a position of condemnation toward your brother? Judgment?

And if you ... are intent upon ... validating your perception of him, are you- are you going to be anywhere near ... *willing* ... to value the 'Oh! Wow!' – that comes out of his mouth, because he's seeing God where you are? Are you going to be able to ... *accept* ... the wonderful exclamations of the *Truth* about you that he or she is seeing, as you're sitting there with your ... *awful* thoughts ... about him, which you feel fully justified in having? Is it anywhere within your capacity – at that moment to- to see the slightest glimmer of a possibility that this ... awfully ... considered one might have ... of the Truth about you, and that ... you could be standing – at that moment – in receipt of a blessing that *would* ... turn your head around and change your life.

Is- is there even the slightest ... capacity to see the ... smallest glimmer of Love that might be coming from there? Or is your ... *awful thought* about him one that says: 'Impossible! ... And even if she *did* have a kind thought about me, I wouldn't have any truck with it. ... She is so this, or so that! Or *he* is so this – so obstinate, so stubborn, so mean, so thoughtless! ... And I can give you example after example after example after example. In fact, I can show you their whole life history and show you that it's a pattern that's been going on forever. 35:28:2

What? *Me* ... think for a moment (small laugh) that this *bitch* or this bastard ... might be ... (small laugh) able to give me a gift that would change my life ... ... because of What They Truly Are? No.

Now, just for practicality, it may be that – humanly speaking – that person does have this history, and the ... the long list that you could spell off ... might very well ... identify behaviors and attitudes that this one has expressed. ...

*Oh, miss perfect so-and-so*, (said in a cautioning voice) (and then gently) *you who can provide the list*, ... are you *really* so perfect? Are you not standing there with ... self-righteous, arrogant, ... *awful judgmental thoughts* about that person? Is- ... Does that ... does that embody good character? ... Does *your* behavior ... reflect a worthiness ... that ... that comes from anywhere other than ... a great ... smallness of mind? ... Do you not need ... someone to look at you – no matter who it might be – and see ... God there, ... and be able to reflect *back* to you ... your Holiness ... so that you might ... let go of your ... awful thoughts about yourself? ... ...

And do they not – even in the midst of their bad behavior – need someone to recognize that their bad behavior doesn't *identify them*, and that their ... bad thoughts or unintelligent thoughts or incoherent thoughts *don't* identify What They Really Are? Do they not deserve someone who's willing to look beyond them, because – in order for there to be any *awful* definition there – there has to be Something *Real* there, ... that's been covered up by their own awful thoughts, and the awful thoughts of others just like you. ...

You believe... that you are your thoughts, and you believe that others are *their* thoughts. And you think that *that idea* – that thought – is- has substance to it. You think that it is absolutely dependable. And so you hold on to it as though it were an anchor. You anchor yourself in the thought, ... when you need to be anchoring yourself in the *mind*, in which the thought was occurring. You need to anchor yourself in the mind ... in which that thought is occurring, so you can set the thought down. So that you can be *silent* and *move back into* the state of attention that is the normal activity of mind.

Now ... ... Let's go into the book.

## Guiltlessness and Invulnerability. ...

"If you did not feel guilty, you *could* not attack, for condemnation is the root of attack. It is the judgment of one mind – by another – as unworthy of Love and deserving of punishment." Now, that is the accepted definition of guilt. It is a different meaning than I was using for the word 'guilt' last week. And I just want to make that distinction.

"If you did not feel guilty, you could not attack," ... – See, if you didn't feel like you were out of your skin – if you- if you didn't *feel* as though you were in ... an unnatural state – in other words, if you were *in* your Peace, ... and you therefore, felt whole, you would never attack. But you *do* feel like you are out of your skin. ... You do feel like a stranger in a strange land. You do feel ... out of place, and at odds with everything, and out of sorts with everything – and not being able to make sense of what everything is – and not being able to fit in with it because it's *not like you*.

And so you feel at a loss, constantly at a loss – in one way or another – to one degree or another. ... I wonder why? Well, ... do you suppose it might be because – at some point – you said: 'Father, I'd *rather* see it *my way*. Father, I would rather do it *my way*. Father, I want a divorce. I want to *cut off* communication with You for a while and *explore* ... my capacities– on my own.' ... ..

As we've said over and over again, when you did that ... – which you're capable of imagining you can do – ... you put yourself in a position of forgetting your Source, because you pushed the Awareness of your Source – your Father – out ... out somewhere in the back forty of your mind. And you said: '*I'm* just going to pay attention to the part of the Infinity of my mind that's not behind me – that's not where I shoved all the things I don't want to look at.' And this caused you to feel alone and isolated. **43:59:7**

... Now, ... as I also said last week, ... when you ... *deny* part of yourself, you can't ... it is not something you cannot fully accomplish. ... You can *ignore* Part of yourself, but you can't actually get rid of It. – in that state of self-denial – and denying your Father is part of your denying yourself ... – you will ... *feel* the fact that you are trying to do something that is impossible – and that therefore, your attempt is going to be a *futile* attempt, which means that it's unintelligent or we'll put it another way: stupid.

... Ah, here's where you're faced with having to make a choice: Are you going to take responsibility *for* and acknowledge that ... you are doing something ... that won't work ... – that you're doing something ... that is fundamentally wrong, ... and in the honesty of that acknowledgement, stay in your Sanity?

Or are you going to deny ... that you're misusing your mind ... and fight for the right to stay in this state of ignorance, without having to acknowledge that it's a state of ignorance? Are you going to do something that is wrong – meaning that which can't possibly be done – and that which won't work? Are you going to deny that you're wrong and ... persist with a confidence that what you're doing is not only possible: God gave you the right to do it because He gave you free will – and you are going to persist ... at the expense of your Peace? ...

If you choose for *that*, you're choosing for insanity. *And* ... because you will not be able to get rid of the discomfort – the dissonance of being at odds with ... that which you *can't* successful be at odds with – you will have to account for the discomfort ... in some other way than *owning* it – which means you're going to have to account for it by *disowning* it. And you're going to have to blame something or someone else. ... .. You see? ...

You will feel guilty ... for doing something that can't be done. ... And knowing that it can't be done, you're going to persist *anyway!* ...

Now, if you're going to *disown it*, and place it out there, it means that *every* time you look into your brother's eyes ... you are not ... *going to remember God*. It isn't that you will forget to. It is that you have decided – actually – ahead of time – that you're not going to let your brother ... look at you and remember God, and let that have any effect on you! Why? Because *if you did that*, you would have to ... come back into your Right Mind and acknowledge: 'Yes, I have chosen to do something that is impossible. And I know it's impossible. But I'm insisting on doing it anyway. I am doing something unintelligent. I am being *stupid!*' ... You see? That's what would have to happen ... if you would let your brother *look at you* and remember God, and ... *bathe you* ... in his clear awareness of you. ...

"If you did not feel guilty, you could not attack, for condemnation is the *root* of attack. ... It is the judgment of one mind *by another* as unworthy of Love, and *deserving* of punishment. But herein lies the split. For the mind that *judges* perceives itself as separate from the mind being judged."

'Oh that so-and-so over there – that bitch, that bastard. (small laugh) They're not like me. We've got no connection. They're their own independent soul just like I am. That's ... about the only thing we have in common.' You see?

**50:20:4**

"For the mind that judges sees itself as separate from the mind *being* judged, ... believing that by punishing another, *it* will escape punishment." So you *blame the other one* so that you don't have to look at what you're really doing. And

you think that by blaming the other one, you'll escape the punishment – the penalty – that you will escape having to pay attention to the ever-present *dissonance* that you are actually experiencing *because* you're trying to do the impossible, and deny some part of yourself, which is Forever Whole, and Forever Unchangeable – Forever Unalterable.

And therefore, as *long* as you persist in trying to deny ... Part or All of What You Divinely Are, you *will feel* ... the *insanity of the attempt!*

And so, no matter *how much* you project it out and blame everyone else, and everything else, ... the discomfort – the dissonance – will not disappear. Why? Because you haven't abandoned any of the *thinking* and let yourself ... sink back into ... the *normal use of your mind* – the *normal* function of your mind, which is not *thinking* at all but is pure, unadulterated attentiveness ... attention.

"All this is but the delusional attempt of the mind to" – what? – "*deny itself* ... and escape the penalty of denial." Now, what needs to be clear here is that you usually think of penalty as something that is assigned some time *after* ... the offense has occurred. Somebody commits an offense. Oh, he's arrested. He's put in jail. A court date is set. Attorneys are hired. They present their cases. Guilt is decided, and then ... a penalty is set.

But you see, the only penalty there is here is the instantaneous ... experience of the fact that you can't become *insane*. And what I mean by that is that when you attempt to deny What You Are, which is an attempt to do the impossible, ... the energy you bring ... to bear upon ignoring some Part of your Self is ... *inseparably accompanied by* ... a dissonance – the *discomfort* that comes from using your mind wrongly. It is simultaneous with the attempt. And it is as *strong* as the attempt. So if you ... push against ... an immovable object, you could say it presses back with equal force, because the attempt is an attempt to change something that can't change. So the penalty is simultaneous, and equal to the amount of energy *you bring to* the attempt (small laugh) to be out of your mind.

And what's pressing back against your attempt to be out of your mind is your innate *Sanity, that cannot ever be lost!*

And so it's always an immediate and equal standoff. ...

You push again Truth ... and you experience the impossibility of accomplishing – of having there be – of there being any *effect* of your pushing against Truth. And it's equal to the attempt. ... And the attempt is thwarted. And, as long as you persist in the attempt, ... it will be on- it will be an ongoing standoff. Until what?

Until finally you arrive at a point where you say: 'Whew. It's not worth the effort. ... I'm not getting where I thought I would be going. This is too hard. ... I'm wearing myself out.' And you arrive at a point of giving up pushing against the Truth – or *denying* Something that can't be gotten rid of.

And inevitably you stop ... intellectually or mentally insisting upon ... doing what can't be done. And your mind becomes still, and you have ... a holy moment – a moment of holiness ... because – in the absence of the noise of your thinking, the sounds of Heaven that have *always* been going on – in ... *your attention* ... can register. [56:52:0](#)

So: "All this is but the delusional attempt of the mind to deny itself and escape the *penalty* of denial. It is not an attempt to relinquish denial, but to *hold on to it*. For it is guilt that has obscured the Father to you, and it is *guilt* that has driven you insane. ... The acceptance of guilt into the mind of God's Son was the beginning of the separation, as the acceptance of the Atonement is its end." ...

If you only *Knew* ... What You Were. If you only knew Who You Really Are. ... .. And Knowing Who and What You Are is what lies in store for you – awaiting your willingness to let It in. Because It's Awesome. Right now It is Awesome, as you ... sit there, ... as you listen. ... .. And the only thing that keeps you from experiencing It is that you think you have your identity pegged- pegged. ... .. You think you've got it down. Why? Because you can explain it. ... And e- then, using other thoughts, you can justify your explanation. And on and on and on. ... ..

*Really* ... really begin ... to *devalue* whatever – whatever definition of yourself you might be employing, whether it's one that's excellent or whether it's one that's awful. It doesn't matter ... .. it doesn't matter what the explanation or the definition or the justification is – *it doesn't matter* whether it's a good one or a bad one. Either way it's a structure of thought, ... and either way they blind you from the *experience* of the *Awesomeness* of What You Are As Mind – that is available to you when you *abandon* the thoughts and the definitions – and the concepts. ... ..

(small laugh) We're sort of narrowing down the situation into its ... fundamental simplicity. Because – as I said – you all know you ... have available to you right now the means ... to be thought-less.

You have the means. Even if it's only been *momentary* for you at times, you've had the experience of silence. ... Of Be-ing without thought – beyond thought – however you might want to put it. ...

What you didn't know was that that silence is the threshold ... of you coming back into your Right Mind ... – and that therefore, it is in- it is of *Infinitely greater value* than *any thought* you might *fill* your mind with!

Continuing: “The world you see is the delusional system of those made ba- mad by guilt. Look carefully at this world and you will realize that this is so.” Just ... just ... oh! Look in your own household or turn on the tv and look at the ... *insanity* going on in your world. And notice how the insanity that is being carried out ... has its basis in **mindsets** – whether it's *national* mindsets – whether it's *racial* mindsets – whether it's *military* mindsets – whether it's *political* mindsets – what is being carried out is occurring because people are not being able to let go of the definitions and the *rules* that they have thought up, that they further *think* ... constitutes their salvation. ...

Notice this when you watch the news. ... And then, take advantage of its transfer value, because sometimes it's easier to see about someone else – what you can't see about yourself, but which is absolutely true about yourself. Recognizing that it's true about yourself is the beginning of Sanity, because it's the beginning of being able to take responsibility for what you're doing.

And once you take responsibility for it – once you *own* the fact that: ‘Hey. Yes, I am doing that too.’ – you're in a position where you can change your mind. ... Or, I'm going to say: change the *use* to which you're putting your mind. ... And practice letting go of thinking. And practice quote ‘the silence’ unquote.

“Look carefully at this world, and you will realize that this is so. For this world is the symbol of punishment. And all the laws which seem to govern it are the laws of death. Children are born into it through pain ... and in pain. Their growth is attended by suffering And they learn of sorrow and separation and death. Their minds are trapped in their brain” – or at least that's what they're led to believe – “Their minds ... are trapped in their brain, and its powers decline if their bodies are hurt. They *seem* to love, yet they desert and are deserted. They appear to lose what they love, perhaps the most insane belief of all. And their bodies *wither* and *gasp*, and are laid in the ground and seem to be no more. Not one of them but has thought that God is cruel. ... If this *were* the Real World, God would be cruel, for no Father could subject His Children *to* this as the price of salvation and be loving. Love does not kill to save. LOVE DOES NOT KILL TO SAVE. If it did, attack would be salvation, And this is the ego's interpretation. Not God's.” ... ..

So, here it is: “Only the world of guilt could demand this, for only the guilty could conceive of it.” ... .. Got to be careful here. ... because it makes it sound as though there is someone who could *really be guilty*.

The whole experience of guilt is a result ... of a poor use – an improper use – of the mind. ... Not the normal use of the mind.

And as long as the improper – or ... *not normal use* of the mind is occurring – the description we just read of your experience of the world will persist ... not because it's actual, ... but because ... you've made a commitment ... to making up definitions about what you're seeing, – and you've chosen to ... *commit* to those definitions; and *ignore* the fact that you're making them up – ignore the fact that in committing to them you are *choosing to refuse to see* What Everything Really Is. ...

And you're doing it by means of the thoughts you're thinking. ...

And the *answer* ... to the dilemma is *simple!* Abandon the thinking and start listening. Because when you *listen for the Truth*, what are you going to hear the Truth about? You're going to hear the Truth about everything that you've ... been believing a lie about – and committing yourself to.

And so by listening, you won't be transported out of ... this cruel world. You'll be transported out of ... the ... context of thinking *about* Reality, in which everything is screwed up, *into* the Awareness of Reality As It Is. And thereby, everything you have been seeing in a distorted fashion, you will now see clearly. It will not constitute a loss of anything meaningful, but the regaining of the Actual, Divine, Holy, Awesome capital M Meaning of everything you had applied an *awful, little, tiny, demeaning definition* to, in at- in an attempt to secure an identity ... that you could never have *privately* ... all alone. ... ..

Now, ... the subject tonight is not ... *serious*. Nor is it something for you to become depressed about or worried about. ... I have expressed the ideas with *excellent* logic, which your thinking mind can appreciate. But the *logic* and the clarity with which I've shared it ... gives you a trigger ... for moving beyond your logic, and consider ... a new way ... of Be-ing. And, perhaps, ... even a curiosity to try to employ *listening* ... rather than thinking! ... ..

... What we've been discussing tonight is essential to ... what we're *going to be* discussing as we move further on. And so, I encourage you *all* to review it, ... .. because of the benefit it holds for you ... between now and next week.

Mm. I have extended to you an Excellent Gift: a Gift of Excellence – the Function of Which is to uncover *your* Excellence, so that you might consider It a possibility, rather than an impossibility. ... .. I Love You All. ... .. And I look forward to Be-ing with You next week. ... ..

Don't be afraid of the Truth. ... "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free." And let Me just say that doesn't mean: Ye shall know the Truth that you already *know*, and the Truth shall set you free. It means: Ye shall Know the Truth – What It *Really* Is. And in the aha! and the insight and the revelation that *follows*, you will be set free.

Let your desire be ... to know the **Truth** ... that's greater than any of your present concepts of Truth. ... Okay.