

Chapter 17.

FORGIVENESS AND THE HOLY RELATIONSHIP

I. Bringing Fantasy to Truth

T-17.I.1. The betrayal of the Son of God lies only in illusions, and all his "sins" are but **the Son of God's** own imagining. 2 **The Son of God's** reality is forever sinless. 3 **God's Son** need not be forgiven but awakened. 4 In **the Son of God's** dreams **the Son of God** has betrayed himself, his brothers and his God. 5 Yet what is done in dreams has not been really done. 6 It is impossible to convince the dreamer that **what is done in dreams has not been really done in reality**, for dreams are what **dreams** are *<because>* of **the dream's** illusion of reality. 7 Only in **the dreamer's** waking is the full release from **dreams**, for only then does it become perfectly apparent to **the dreamer** that **dreams** had no effect upon reality at all, and **the dreamer's dreams** did not change **reality**. 8 Fantasies change reality **temporarily within the sleeping mind of the dreamer**. 9 That is **the purpose of fantasy**. 10 **Fantasy** cannot do so in reality, but **fantasy** *<can>* do so in the **sleeping** mind that would have reality be different

Note #1: Dreams have no effect on the reality of truth. Yet, to the dreamer during the sleeping state, the dream appears to be true. As long as the dreamer believes that the dream is his current experience, it will appear real to him. Within the dream itself, illusions are as strong in their affect on the dreamer's mind as what would normally be viewed as the truth. Once fully awakened, the dreamer realizes that the dream was a fantasy and, therefore, had no affect on the truth. Yet, while he was dreaming, the dream did appear to be his reality. During this dreaming state, the dream becomes the dreamer's provisional reality. All that appears within the dreamer's mind is not real to anyone else. We all agree when wide awake that any imagined "action" which took place during a dream should not be punished or rewarded since it has no impact or affect on the truth of reality.

T-17.I.2. It is, then, only your wish to change reality that is fearful, because by your wish, you think you have accomplished what you wish, **which was to change your reality**. 2 This strange position, **which is to change the appearance of reality within your own mind**, in a sense, acknowledges your power **to be the cause and source of your own experience**. 3 Yet by distorting **your power to be the cause and source of your own experience** and devoting **this power to be the cause and source of your experience** to "evil," it also makes **your perceived experience** unreal. 4 You cannot be faithful to two masters who ask conflicting things of you. **These two "master" are the thought system of the ego and the Holy Spirit's**. 5 What you use in fantasy you deny to truth. 6 Yet what you give to truth to use for you is safe from fantasy. **The ego is the protector of fantasy and the Holy Spirit's thought system is the defender of truth**

Note #2: God's Will is only that His Son should be happy. What causes us to be fearful is our belief that we have changed God's Will. Therefore, by our past actions, we believe that we have or will lose our happiness because we have tampered with God's reality. We have gotten caught up in the belief that we could oppose God's Will. We believe that our action actually changes the Mind of God. This is impossible since God's Will is changeless. The "problem" with the dream of separation was not our wanting to watch or play in the dream game of separation. Rather the problem occurred when we forgot that we were making up the dream. When we forgot we were the dreamer, we started to believe that our dream was

true. We forgot to laugh and took the dream seriously. Fear was birthed within the dreamer's mind.

ACIM states that our mind has the power to create or project its own internal movies. These movies appear to be real within the dreamer's mind. The world of perception, time and space act as the movie screen for our mind's thoughts and desires. Yet, when we realize that our thoughts are projected into an illusionary world, we realize that the dream can have no impact on the reality of our real world called Heaven. These dreams or movies do affect the dreamer or moviegoer. By watching the movie, the observer is either entertained, taught some lesson, or both. When this paragraph references "evil," evil is the false belief that the Sonship, which is an Effect of God, could somehow change God's Will. An effect has no power to change its cause. The ego is the protector and "movie projector" of false images and the belief in fantasy. The Holy Spirit's thought system is the defender of truth

T-17.I.3. When you maintain that there must be an order of difficulty in miracles, all you mean is that there are some things you would withhold from truth. 2 You believe truth cannot deal with **some things that you wish to withhold from truth** only because you would keep **some things** from truth. 3 Very simply, your lack of faith in the power that heals all pain (**the power of truth**) arises from your wish to retain some aspects of reality for fantasy. 4 If you but realized what this **desire to withhold some parts from truth** must do to your appreciation of the whole! 5 What you reserve for yourself **are your fantasies that are under the guidance of the ego's thought system. What you reserve for yourself**, you take away from **the Holy Spirit**, Who would release you **from these fantasies**. 6 Unless you give **all your fantasies back to the Holy Spirit**, it is inevitable that your perspective on reality **will** be warped and uncorrected

Note # 3: Since only the Holy Spirit is aware of both the truth and your perceived dream, only the Holy Spirit has the knowledge to show you that the dream is not true. The Holy Spirit can only do this if you ask for His guidance. The Holy Spirit does not force you to listen to the truth against your free will. However, if you choose to give up only selective parts of your dream to the Holy Spirit for His reinterpretation, you will still remain trapped within the dream itself. You cannot pick and choose which part in the illusion you will keep and expect to awaken from your insanity. If you wish to awaken from the dream, all illusion must be given to the Holy Spirit. Until you give up all illusion, you will maintain the false idea that you could be something other than what you truly are. It is the things that we value that we refuse to give over to the Holy Spirit. People are willing to give up the illusion of pain and suffering but wish to maintain the illusion of pleasure and specialness. You cannot be "totally committed" some of the time. Truth is not a "sometimes thing".

T-17.I.4. As long as you would have **some parts of fantasy withheld from truth**, so long will the illusion of an order of difficulty in miracles remain with you. 2 For you have established this order **of difficulty into your** reality by giving some of **your fantasies** to one teacher, **the ego**, and some **of your fantasies** to another **teacher, the Holy Spirit**. 3 And so you learn to deal with part of the truth in one way, and in another way the other part. 4 To fragment truth is to destroy **truth** by rendering **truth** meaningless. 5 Orders of reality is a perspective without understanding. **Orders of reality are** a frame of reference for reality to which **reality** cannot really be compared at all

Note # 4: By trying to seek guidance from two different teachers, the ego and the Holy Spirit, we receive two different sets of answers to each question that we ask. Both responses are based on the teacher's own viewpoint of reality. The ego's response represents the false, while the Holy Spirit's represents the truth. By attempting to listen to two totally different teachers with opposite belief systems, our world becomes very unstable. Now, instead of just true and false, we have introduced the concept of conditional truth or the "sometimes". Sometimes something is true; sometimes it is false. Now, we have varying degrees of truth, which claim to represent reality. Rather than absolute truth, each person has his or her own version of the truth. This varies from person to person and, therefore, each individual develops their own viewpoint and perception, which in turn becomes their own provisional reality. Because we have changed truth from an absolute to a maybe, we have introduced the concept that reality is a "sometimes". Sometimes creates degrees of difficulty. Prior to the existence of "sometimes" there was only the true and the false. Now, change has an endless array of possibilities. Our dream world has now become very complex with the introduction of partial or half-truths. With orders of reality, the absoluteness of true or false also loses its reality in the shifting sands of "sometimes" and "maybes".

T-17.I.5. Think you that you can bring truth to fantasy, and learn what truth means from the perspective of illusions? 2 Truth <has> no meaning in illusion. 3 The frame of reference for **truth's** meaning must be **truth**, itself. 4 When you try to bring truth to illusions, you are trying to make illusions real, and keep **illusions** by justifying your belief in **the illusions**. p351 5 But to give illusions to truth is to enable truth to teach that the illusions are unreal, and thus enable you to escape from **the illusions**. 6 Reserve not one idea aside from truth, or you establish orders of reality that must imprison you. 7 There is no order in reality, because everything there is true

Note # 5: Reality is always true. There is only one choice we are asked to make. This choice is always between the true and the false. Reality is always true and fantasy is always false. "Something" does not vacillate between true and false. It is always only one or the other. We either know the truth, which is the real world of Heaven, or we appear to live in an illusionary fantasy of perception, which becomes our provisional reality. There is no in between.

T-17.I.6. Be willing, then, to give all you have held outside the truth to Him, **the Holy Spirit**, Who knows the truth, and in Whom all **fantasy** is brought to truth. 2 Salvation from separation would be complete, or **salvation from separation** will not be at all. 3 Be not concerned with anything except your willingness to have **salvation from separation** be accomplished. 4 **The Holy Spirit** will accomplish **salvation from separation**; not you. 5 But forget not this: When you become disturbed and lose your peace of mind because another is attempting to solve his problems through fantasy, you are refusing to forgive yourself for just this same attempt **to solve your problems through fantasy**. 6 And you are holding both you **and your brother** away from truth and from salvation. 7 As you forgive **your brother**, you restore to truth what was denied by both you **and your brother**. 8 And you will see forgiveness where you have given **forgiveness**.

Note # 6: When you become disturbed and lose your peace of mind because your brother is attempting to solve his problems through fantasy, you are judging another and are falling into the same egoic belief system in which he is suffering. Both of you are now seeing yourselves as separate and with some power and will outside the Will of God. Rather than judge your brother, you need to turn the moment over to the Holy Spirit. Only by giving this moment over to the Holy Spirit can you avoid the pitfalls of the ego's thought system. When we judge, we are saying that something is unacceptable to us and that we are separate from our brother. If we wish to change our brother, we are also saying that our egoic self has the power to change our brother. By myself (the ego, or little "s" self), I can do nothing. Yet, through me, God can do everything. We need to turn our egoic judgments over to the Holy Spirit and get out of God's way.

Again, under the laws of God, "To give is to receive." When we grant forgiveness to a brother, we grant forgiveness to ourselves.

II. The Forgiven World

T-17.II.1. Can you imagine how beautiful those you forgive will look to you? 2 In no fantasy have you ever seen anything so lovely **as the beauty within those whom you have forgiven.** 3 Nothing you see here **in your world of perception**, sleeping or waking, comes near to such loveliness **as the beauty within those whom you have forgiven.** 4 And nothing will you value like **the beauty within those whom you have forgiven**, nor hold so dear. 5 Nothing that you remember that made your heart sing with joy has ever brought you even a little part of the happiness this sight **of your forgiven brother** will bring you. 6 For you will see the Son of God. 7 You will behold the beauty the Holy Spirit loves to look upon, and which **the Holy Spirit** thanks the Father for. 8 **The Holy Spirit** was created to see this for you, until you learned to see **the beauty within those whom you have forgiven** for yourself. 9 And all **the Holy Spirit's** teaching leads to seeing **the beauty within your forgiven and guiltless brother** and giving thanks with **the Holy Spirit.**

Note # 7: By following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we recover the vision of Christ. With this vision of Christ, we learn to look past form and see the reality of unlimited spirit, which is our brother. We see our brother as sinless and guiltless. We recognize the Christ within our forgiven brother.

T-17.II.2. This loveliness **of the beauty within your forgiven and guiltless brother** is not a fantasy. 2 **This loveliness** is the real world, bright and clean and new, with everything sparkling under the open sun. p352 3 Nothing is hidden here **in the real world**, for everything has been forgiven and there are no fantasies to hide the truth. 4 The bridge between that world **of fantasy** and this **world of truth** is so little and so easy to cross, that you could not believe it is the meeting place, **or bridge, between** worlds so different. 5 Yet this little bridge is the strongest thing that touches on this **fantasy** world at all. 6 This little step, so small **that this little step** has escaped your notice, is a stride through time into eternity, beyond all ugliness into beauty that will enchant you, and will never cease to cause you wonderment at **eternity's** perfection.

Note # 8: This step from our false illusionary world into the real world is a small step because it requires but one decision. This is the choice for truth over all that is false. This choice brings our world of fantasy into the light of truth. This one decision brings the false

into the light of the Holy Spirit's guidance system. The false fades away into the nothingness from which it arose.

T-17.II.3. This step, **the decision for truth, the return to knowledge, over the falseness of illusion, is** the smallest ever taken. **This step** is still the greatest accomplishment of all in God's plan of Atonement. 2 All else is learned, but this **step** is given, complete and wholly perfect. 3 No one but **God** Who planned salvation could complete **this step, the return to knowledge, thus so completely.** 4 The real world, in its loveliness, you learn to reach. 5 Fantasies are all undone, and no one and nothing remain still bound by **fantasies**, and by your own forgiveness you are free to see **the real world.** 6 Yet what you see is only what you made, with the blessing of your forgiveness on **what you made.** 7 And with this final blessing of **forgiveness** of God's Son upon himself, the real perception, born of the new perspective he has learned, has served **real perception's** purpose.

Note # 9: Real perception or correct perception is learned through following the thought system of the Holy Spirit. Under the thought system of the Holy Spirit, all judgments, which are based on the past, are no more and we are able to perceive the <now>. We see the present as it really is. Everything in the present is seen through the eyes of Christ as either love or a cry for love. The Christ within us responds the only way it can, since It is love, with love. Forgiveness has awakened this new perception within us. This new perception is the truth of our shared Oneness within the Mind of God.

T-17.II.4. The stars will disappear in light, and the sun that opened up the world to beauty will vanish. 2 Perception will be meaningless when **perception** has been perfected, for everything that has been used for learning will have no function, **since everything was a lesson to return the split-minded to the truth and this has now been accomplished.** 3 Nothing will ever change; no shifts nor shadings, no differences, no variations that made perception possible will still occur. 4 The perception of the real world will be so short that you will barely have time to thank God for **your return to correct perception of the real world.** 5 For God will take the last step, **your return to knowledge,** swiftly, when you have reached the real world and have been made ready for **God.**

Note # 10: When we have learned how to perceive correctly by following the thought system of the Holy Spirit, we will always chose to be the expression of love. This is the truth about us. Before obtaining this correct perception, we had been under the mistaken belief that we were a limited ego-body in competition with other limited ego-bodies. Correct or real perception mirrors the perception of the Holy Spirit. This brings us back, or reawakens the sleeping Son of God to truth about His divine birthright. With the acceptance of the Atonement for ourselves, we are so close to reality that our Father can now take the final step of awakening His Son to truth. This is accomplished with the return of the Sonship to knowledge.

T-17.II.5. The real world is attained simply by the complete forgiveness of the old, **which is** the world you see without forgiveness. 2 The great Transformer of perception, **the Holy Spirit,** will undertake with you the careful searching of the mind that made this world, and uncover to you the seeming reasons for your making **this unforgiven world of your own misperception.** 3 In the light of the real reason that **the Holy Spirit** brings, as

you follow **the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit** will show you that there is no reason here at all in **this unforgiven world you made**. 4 Each spot **the Holy Spirit's** reason touches grows alive with beauty, and what seemed ugly in the darkness of your lack of reason is suddenly released to loveliness. 5 Not even what the Son of God made in insanity could be without a hidden spark of beauty that gentleness could release. p353

Note # 11: The world's purpose is to be a place or state of mind where those who claim they do not know themselves can come to question, explore, experience, and rediscover what they are. We will continue to come again into this world of perception until we no longer choose to play the game of separation. This will be accomplished when we accept the Atonement and learn that it is impossible to doubt ourselves or be unaware of what we are. Since what we are is certain, only our acceptance of what we are is required. For what we are is fixed eternally in the Mind of God. Change is not required of us, the Christ. We are only asked to accept our true big "S" Self, which is what we were created to be. We have always been and will always continue to be this Big "S" Self within the Mind of God. Only in the madness of our dream of split-mindedness, which is the dream of separation, could there be any conflict within God's One Mind. This world is illusionary. Yet, even in dreams, anything that we created which is real, the Holy Spirit has preserved for us. In this dream, our thoughts of forgiveness and love are real. These loving and forgiving thoughts contain the spark of beauty that always remains within the Christ, the Son of God. Forgiveness of our brothers and ourselves releases the love that we are.

T-17.II.6. All this beauty **that you created** will rise to bless your sight as you look upon the world with forgiving eyes. 2 For forgiveness literally transforms vision, and lets you see the real world reaching quietly and gently across chaos, removing all illusions that had twisted your perception and fixed **your perceptions** on the past. 3 The smallest leaf becomes a thing of wonder, and a blade of grass a sign of God's perfection.

Note # 12: Without past judgments to cloud the truth of the <now>, the present is seen through the vision of Christ as a place for the communication, extension and sharing of love. The veil of our past judgments has been removed and we now can see the sinless and guiltless Son of God, the Christ, standing before us. We realize the Oneness of the Mind of God, and see the remembrance of God everywhere, for God is all that is. When we perceive correctly, the awe of the remembrance of God descends upon us. Forgiveness removes the veil of the illusion that the Son of God could be anything but guiltless. Thus, we remain perfect, whole and complete.

T-17.II.7. From the forgiven world the Son of God is lifted easily into his home, **the truth of Heaven, which is the real world**. 2 And there he knows that he has always rested there **in Heaven** in peace. 3 Even salvation will become a dream, and vanish from his mind. 4 For salvation is the end of dreams, and with the closing of the dream, **salvation** will have no meaning. 5 Who, awake in Heaven, could dream that there could ever be need of salvation?

Note # 13: With the return to Heaven, the dream of separation will fade into the nothingness from which it arose. The fantasy of separation will no longer be recalled or remembered. Once the Holy Spirit has fulfilled His function of reinterpreting our dream of separation back into the reality of truth, the once sleeping Son of God will reawaken. The dream has served its function and disappears. Both the dream and the idea of time fade away and what is left is only the truth of the Oneness of the eternal Mind of God.

T-17.II.8. How much do you want salvation? 2 **Salvation** will give you the real world, trembling with readiness to be given you. 3 The eagerness of the Holy Spirit to give you **the real world** is so intense **the Holy Spirit** would not wait, although **the Holy Spirit** waits in patience. 4 Meet **the Holy Spirit's** patience with your impatience at delay in meeting **the Holy Spirit**. 5 Go out in gladness to meet with your Redeemer, and walk with **the Holy Spirit** in trust out of this world, and into the real world of beauty and forgiveness.

Note # 14: Salvation will be granted when we seek only the remembrance of God. There is nothing in an illusionary dream that can be of value. Be vigilant only for God, and the Holy Spirit's thought system will once again return you to the vision of Christ so that the face of God will be in all that you behold. Your salvation lies in your reclaiming of your Oneness with the Will of God. This Oneness is the Mind of God, which we share completely.

III. Shadows of the Past

T-17.III.1. To forgive is merely to remember only the loving thoughts you gave in the past, and those **loving thoughts** that were given you. 2 All the rest, **the unloving thoughts**, must be forgotten. 3 Forgiveness is a selective remembering, based not on your selection, **but the Holy Spirit's thought system**. 4 For the shadow figures you would make immortal are "enemies" of reality. 5 Be willing to forgive the Son of God for what **the Son of God** did not do. 6 The shadow figures are the witnesses you bring with you to demonstrate **that the Son of God** did what **the Son of God** did not do. 7 Because you bring **these witnesses for illusion from your past with you**, you will hear **these witnesses for illusion claim that the Son of God did what the Son of God did not do**. 8 And you who keep **these false witnesses from your past** by your own selection do not understand how **these witnesses from your past** came into your mind, and what **these witnesses'** purpose is. 9 **These witnesses from your past that claim that the Son of God did what the Son of God did not do** represent the evil that you think was done to you **in the past**. 10 You bring **these witnesses from your past** with you only that you may return evil for evil, hoping that their witness will enable you to think guiltily of another and not harm yourself **when you think guiltily of another and thus maintain the pretense of your innocence**. 11 **These witnesses from your past that claim that your brother did what your brother did not do** speak so clearly for the separation that no one not obsessed with keeping **the separation** could hear **these witnesses**. 12 **These witnesses from your past that claim that your brother did what your brother did not do** offer you the "reasons" why you should enter into unholy alliances to support the ego's goals, and make your relationships the witness to the **ego's** power. P.354

Note #15: The ego utilizes your past experience to judge and re-enact your past in the present. Special relationships are utilized by the ego to reconfirm your past misperceptions. The ego's purpose in all special relationships is to demonstrate that you are not perfect, whole and complete. The Holy Spirit would have you forgive your brother and, ultimately,

yourself by focusing on what is similar to the truth within your illusionary dream. Only thoughts that are shared and include the truth about your brother hold any resemblance to reality within your dream. Inclusive thoughts are forgiving and loving thoughts. The Holy Spirit would have you realize that thoughts of fear and attack are not from the Mind of God and, therefore, are illusions, which should be dismissed within the dream world of perception. Loving and forgiving thoughts are those that can be utilized by the Holy Spirit for the expressed purpose of relearning that you are love. The ego would have you enter into new relationships based on the past so that you would continue to play the role of innocent victim or sinner. The ego believes that you have either sinned or been wronged by your brother. The ego seeks retribution for these past wrongs. Either sinning or being sinned upon proves that you are not as God created you to be. The ego's concept and belief in sin bear false witness to the separation and 'prove' that you are not perfect, whole and complete.

T-17.III.2. It is these shadow figures **from your past that claim that the Son of God did what the Son of God did not do**, that would make the ego holy in your sight, and teach you what you do to keep **the ego** safe is really love. 2 The shadow figures always speak for vengeance, and all relationships into which **these shadow figures from the past** enter are totally insane. 3 Without exception, these relationships **which these shadow figures enter** have as their purpose the exclusion of the truth about the other, and **the exclusion of the truth about you**. 4 This is why you see in both **yourself and the other** what is not there, and make of both **yourself and the other** the slaves of vengeance. 5 And why whatever reminds you of your past grievances attracts you, and **why whatever reminds you of your past grievances** seems to go by the name of love, no matter how distorted the associations by which you arrive at the connection may be. 6 And finally, why all such relationships **that reminds you of your past grievances**, become attempts at union through the body, for only bodies can be seen as means for vengeance. 7 That bodies are central to all unholy relationships is evident. 8 Your own experience has taught you **that bodies are central to all unholy relationships since only bodies can be seen as a means for vengeance**. 9 But what you may not realize are all the reasons that go to make the relationship **that reminds you of your past grievances** unholy. 10 For unholiness seeks to reinforce **the unholiness that it sees in itself**, just as holiness **seeks to reinforce the holiness that it see in itself**, by gathering to itself what it perceives as like itself

Note # 16: The ego's special relationship is an unholy one since its purpose is to bear false witness about the truth of the guiltlessness of both your brother and yourself. The ego seeks revenge for what it perceives as your own limitations. The ego sees you as imperfect and guilty. The ego seeks to extract its revenge and retribution from you, its imperfect host, by telling you that the retribution it seeks can be obtained by you attacking another. By identifying your mind with the body, you become witnesses to your own vulnerability and belief in limitation. By seeing both your brother and yourself as an ego-body, you now can suffer pain and inflict the same upon another. Although this suffering and inflicting of pain is not your expressed purpose, it is the hidden agenda of the ego's special relationship. Your suffering and loss of inner peace is the verification of your inadequacies as a Child of God. Your suffering and loss of inner peace is always the final result of an egoic special relationship. Because the ego's special relationship reinforces the belief that you are a limited ego-body, the relationship is an unholy one. The relationship's purpose is to keep you from rediscovering your Oneness with the Mind of God. In the egoic special

relationship, you seek completion outside yourself and fail to look within yourself for the remembrance of God and what you truly are.

T-17.III.3. In the unholy relationship, it is not the body of the other with which union is attempted, but **rather union is attempted with** the bodies of those who are not there. **We seek union with these shadow figures from our past that falsely claim that the Son of God has sinned.** 2 For even the body of the other party **of the special relationship, which we have already placed** a severely limited perception **upon**, is not the central focus as it is, or in entirety. **We focus not on the entire whole other party, but rather only those parts of the other party that can be made to serve our past purpose.** 3 What can be used for fantasies of vengeance, and what can be most readily associated with those on whom vengeance is really sought, is centered on and separated off as being the only parts of value. 4 Every step taken in the making, the maintaining and the breaking off of the unholy relationship is a move toward further fragmentation and unreality. 5 The shadow figures **from your past that falsely claim that the Son of God did what the Son of God did not do**, enter more and more, and the one in whom they seem to be, **the other party of the special relationship**, decreases in importance.

Note # 17: In the unholy special relationship, we do not value the whole person. We only value certain desirable parts of the other. By fragmenting the wholeness or oneness of the other party into parts, we continue down the path of separation. In the dream of separation, we attempted to give separate purposes or goals to each part of the whole. By assigning a different purpose for each part, it is now possible to have conflicting goals. Conflict, born of competition, now arises as each part struggles against the other parts to obtain the now perceived limited resources needed to fulfill its own separate function. We see ourselves with many separate and competing goals rather than as having only one true goal, which is the return of the entire Sonship to knowledge.

The Sonship currently sees itself as fragmented into many small “s” selves. It perceives itself as a separate, limited ego-body in competition with other ego-bodies. Its oneness of unity has given way to the specialness of separation and individual perception. We believe that a part cannot contain the whole and that each part must be less than the whole. Each separately perceived part has its own special interest. That part’s special interests are in conflict with other parts of the whole. In the special relationship, we do not accept the other person as a whole. Rather we accept some parts and attack other parts of the other person’s wholeness. Because we do not accept the whole, we judge and fragment the wholeness of the other. As we focus on the unacceptable parts that need to be changed, we bring more and more shadowy figures into the relationship. The other party decreases in importance as we tear their wholeness apart. We find ourselves saying more and more, “I can love or perhaps only tolerate you, if you...<BLANK>...” We can all relate to how we choose to fill in the blank. Our special relationship becomes a source for attack. This egoic relationship is not based on acceptance and unconditional love. Rather it is conditioned on a set of rules and regulation that bind, limit and enslave each party. The egoic special relationship is a relationship of a lot of “strings”.

T-17.III.4. Time is indeed unkind to the unholy relationship. 2 For time *<is>* cruel in the ego's hands, as **time** is kind when used for gentleness. 3 The attraction of the unholy relationship begins to fade and to be questioned almost at once. 4 Once **the special or unholy relationship** is formed, doubt must enter in, because **the special or unholy**

relationship's purpose is impossible. 5 The "ideal" of the unholy relationship thus becomes one in which the reality of the other, **the wholeness, oneness and guiltlessness of their unlimited spirit**, does not enter at all to "spoil" the dream **that we are separate ego-bodies**. 6 And the less the other really brings to the relationship, the "better" **the unholy relationship** becomes. 7 Thus, the attempt at union becomes a way of excluding even the one with whom the union was sought. 8 For **the unholy relationship** was formed to get him out of **the oneness and guiltlessness of the truth**, and join with fantasies in uninterrupted "bliss."

Note # 18: The ego uses the special relationship as a substitute for God's love. The ego claims that our happiness and salvation can be found only in the special relationship. It claims that the special relationship's purpose is to reunite and make you whole. But by claiming that you are incomplete, the special relationship argues for your vulnerability. You cannot be made whole when you believe that you have sinned and, therefore, by definition are imperfect, unholy and incomplete. The ego will not allow the removal of this guilt; instead the special relationship demonstrates that you are a limited ego-body in competition with other ego-bodies. This substitute for God's love is based on the idea of limitation and attack. In the egoic special relationship, we must steal from others what we believe we lack. This is not the road to peace but rather a road to war. We need a body for only with a body can we attack. Thus, our mind identifies and becomes trapped within the body and we remain stuck within our dream of separation from the Oneness.

T-17.III.5. How can the Holy Spirit bring **the Holy Spirit's** interpretation of the body as a means of communication into relationships whose only purpose is separation from reality? p355 2 What forgiveness *<is>* enables **the Holy Spirit** to do so. 3 If all but loving thoughts have been forgotten, what remains is eternal. 4 And the transformed past is made like the present, **which in reality (Level#1) is eternal love**. 5 No longer does the past conflict with *<now>*. 6 This continuity of **loving and forgiving thoughts** extends the present by increasing **the present's** reality and **the present's** value in your perception of **the <now>**. 7 In these loving thoughts is the spark of beauty hidden in the ugliness of the unholy relationship where hatred is remembered; yet there **where loving and forgiving thoughts are, the egoic unholy relationship will** come alive as the relationship is given to **the Holy Spirit** Who gives **the relationship** life and beauty. 8 That is why Atonement centers on the past, which is the source of separation, and where **the past belief in separation** must be undone. 9 For separation must be corrected where **the separation** was made, **which is in the past**.

Note # 19: Since we are invulnerable spirit, the only "hurt" that we could perceive must have occurred in our past misperceptions of what we are. By the use of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit takes the ego's unholy special relationship, which is based on the past, and makes it into a holy relationship. A holy relationship is the extension of the thoughts of forgiveness and love. Only thoughts of forgiveness and love are designed to include and unify, rather than exclude and separate. Forgiveness allows us to dismiss the shadowy figures of the past that would claim that our brothers and we are guilty. The Atonement is the realization that what is not of the Mind of God is not real. Therefore, God's Son must remain perfect, whole and complete. We are innocent and guiltless as God created His Son, the Christ, to be. The past is not real and our self-imposed guilt has no basis in reality. Love is all there is and we remain the perfect expression of God's Love. By selectively

remembering only loving thoughts, the Holy Spirit transforms our past perceptions into happy dreams that mirror the reality of Heaven

T-17.III.6. The ego seeks to "resolve" **the ego's** problems, not at their source, **which is the mind**, but where **the problems** were not made, **which is at the level of the body**. 2 And thus **the ego** seeks to guarantee there will be no solution. 3 The Holy Spirit wants only to make **the Holy Spirit's** resolutions complete and perfect, and so **the Holy Spirit** seeks and finds the source of problems **at the level of the mind**, where **the problem** is, and there undoes **the problem**. 4 And with each step in **the Holy Spirit's** undoing is the separation more and more undone, and union brought closer. 5 **The Holy Spirit** is not at all confused by any "reasons" for separation. 6 All **the Holy Spirit** perceives in separation is that **the separation** must be undone. 7 Let **the Holy Spirit** uncover the hidden spark of beauty in your relationships, and show **the hidden spark of beauty in your relationships** to you. 8 **The hidden beauty of this Spark's** loveliness will so attract you that you will be unwilling ever to lose the sight of **this Spark** again. **This Spark is the Christ consciousness in your brother and yourself. This Spark is only love and truth.** 9 And you will let this spark transform the relationship so you can see **this Spark for truth** more and more. 10 For you will want **this spark for truth** more and more, and become increasingly unwilling to let **the beauty of this spark** be hidden from you. 11 And you will learn to seek for and establish the conditions in which this beauty can be seen.

Note # 20: The ego's problems appear to be many, but in reality there is just one. Our belief in the realness of the separation is the only problem. The Holy Spirit is not concerned with how the ego may disguise this problem. The ego may cloak the problem as lack of love or lack of a new car. It does not matter what "form" the problem is disguised as. To the Holy Spirit, the solution of all the ego's problems is a same. All problems dissolve before the truth that the separation was not real. To the Holy Spirit, the only place to properly and permanently solve the problem is at the source of the problem, which is in the mind of the dreamer. The Holy Spirit's message calls for the reestablishment of truth. The truth is that "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God."

T-17.III.7. All this **seeking for and the establishment of the conditions in which this beauty can be seen** you will do gladly, if you but let **the Holy Spirit** hold the spark before you, to light your way and make **the way** clear to you. 2 God's Son is One. 3 Whom God has joined as one, the ego cannot put asunder **and separate**. 4 The spark of holiness must be safe, however hidden **the spark of holiness** may be, in every relationship. 5 For the Creator of the one relationship has left no part of **the one relationship** without Himself. **This one relationship is the relationship we share with God, Himself.** 6 This, **the Son's relationship with God**, is the only part of the relationship the Holy Spirit sees, because **the Holy Spirit** knows that only this is true. 7 You have made the relationship unreal, and therefore unholy, by seeing **the relationship** where **the relationship** is not and as **the relationship** is not. **We have chosen to view relationship through the egoic thought system, which supports the illusion of separation.** 8 Give the past to **the Holy Spirit** Who can change your mind about **the relationship** for you. 9 But first, be sure you fully realize what you have made the past to represent, and why. p.356

Note # 21: To reestablish the right conditions for the vision of Christ to appear, one must simply ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance. By turning over all our egoic problems to the Holy Spirit, His correct perception will light the way with truth and the false will simply fade away. The ego uses your past misperception as a basis to judge the present. Thus, the <now> of the present is not seen and the future becomes merely a re-enactment of past guilt and attack. The cycle of victim consciousness is never broken and your decision-maker never realizes that you can chose differently.

T-17.III.8. The past becomes the justification for entering into a continuing, unholy alliance with the ego against the present. 2 For the present <is> forgiveness. 3 Therefore, **since the present <is> forgiveness**, the relationships the unholy alliance dictates are not perceived nor felt as <now>, **since forgiveness weakens the power of the ego**. 4 Yet the frame of reference to which the present is referred for meaning is an <illusion> of the past, in which those elements **of the present moment** that fit the purpose of the unholy alliance are retained, and all the rest of those elements **of the present moment that do not support the illusion from the past** are let go. 5 And what is thus let go is all the truth the past could ever offer to the present as witnesses for **the present's** reality. 6 What is kept but witnesses to the reality of dreams.

Note # 22: The ego practices selective recall. Having already prejudged the present event based on past errors in judgment, the egoic mind now projects these past mistaken ideas outside itself upon another. The ego, thus "confirms" that its past judgments are correct. The only perceptions that are allowed to return through the senses are items that confirm the original judgment. Only witnesses that support past judgments are allowed to testify on behalf of the ego's version of the present. This egoic version of the present is thus based on a selective remembering from past misperceptions. The witnesses for the truth of the <now> are never allowed to testify in the trials of the ego's lower court. In the High Court of the Christ, your big "S" Self, the Holy Spirit presents only truthful witnesses. The present is represented by the <now>. Only past acts of love and forgiveness are allowed to testify in the High Court of the Christ consciousness since only these acts bear any resemblance to the truth of the real world. In the dream of separation, only love and forgiveness are witnesses for the truth of the real world.

T-17.III.9. It is still up to you to choose to join with truth or **to choose to join** with illusion. 2 But remember that to choose one is to let the other go. 3 Which one you choose you will endow with beauty and reality, because the choice depends on which **one, truth or illusion, that** you value more. 4 The spark of beauty or the veil of ugliness, the real world or the world of guilt and fear, truth or illusion, freedom or slavery—it is all the same. 5 For you can never choose except between God and the ego. 6 Thought systems are but true or false, and all **the thought system's** attributes come simply from what they are, **which is either truth from God, or illusion from the ego**. 7 Only the Thoughts of God are true. 8 And all that follows from **the Thoughts of God** comes from what **the Thoughts of God** are, and **the Thoughts of God** are as true as is the holy Source from which **the Thoughts of God** came, **which is God**.

Note # 23: ACIM states that there is only one decision to be made. That is the choice between truth and illusion. The thought system of the Holy Spirit speaks for truth and, therefore, speaks for God or Truth. The ego's thought system speaks for separation and

represents the falseness of illusion. We cannot serve two different thought systems at the same time for they are mutually exclusive. It is a simple choice between truth and illusion. There can be no compromise. ACIM implores us to be vigilant only for God.

T-17.III.10. My holy brother, I would enter into all your relationships, and step between you and your fantasies. 2 Let my relationship to you be real to you, and let me bring reality to your perception of your brothers. 3 **Your brothers** were not created to enable you to hurt yourself through **your brothers**. 4 **Your brothers** were created to create with you. 5 This is the truth that I would interpose between you and your goal of madness, **which is the thought that the separation is real**. 6 Be not separate from me, and let not the holy purpose of Atonement be lost to you in dreams of vengeance. 7 Relationships in which such dreams of **separation and vengeance** are cherished have excluded me. 8 Let me enter in the Name of God and bring you peace, that you may offer peace to me.

Note #24: We are interconnected. The Sonship was not created to harm itself. Jesus, like the Holy Spirit, is aware of the truth of what we are. We are the united Sonship, the Christ. Jesus, who symbolizes the voice of the Holy Spirit, will guide us to the truth, if freely we ask.

IV. The Two Pictures

T-17.IV.1. God established **God's** relationship with you to make you happy, and nothing you do that does not share **God's** purpose, **which is to make you happy**, can be real. 2 The purpose God ascribed to anything is its only function. 3 Because of **God's** reason for creating His relationship with you, the function of relationships became forever "to make happy." 4 *<And nothing else.>* p357 5 To fulfill this function of "**to make happy**," you relate to your creations as God **relates** to His **creations**. 6 For nothing God created is apart from happiness, and nothing God created but would extend happiness as its Creator did **when God created His Son**. 7 Whatever does not fulfill this function of "**to make happy**" cannot be real.

Note #25: Because we are an extension of the Mind of God, we are a replica of God in all aspects. Since God's function is only "to make happy," this becomes our function because there is only the one-shared Mind of God. Since God created us to be happy, we must create this same away. For like creates like and a strawberry births only strawberries, not apples. Being an extension of God, we are the same "God-stuff" and we must extend ourselves like Our Father. All of creation becomes the oneness of the whole, which is the shared Mind of God. All of creation goes about fulfilling its function, which is "God-ing" or the extension of Itself.

T-17.IV.2. In this world it is impossible to create **because this world is not real being only a fantasy within a dream**. 2 Yet it *<is>* possible to make happy. 3 I have said repeatedly that the Holy Spirit would not deprive you of your special relationships, but would transform **your special relationships and make them holy**. 4 And all that is meant by that **transformation to holiness** is that **the Holy Spirit** will restore to **your special relationships** the function given **all relationships** by God, **which is "to make happy."** 5 The function you have given **to your special relationships** clearly **does not** make happy. 6 But the holy relationship shares God's purpose, **which is "to make happy"**. **A holy relationship does not aim to make an egoic substitute for the relationship's purpose,**

which God has already determined to be only “to make happy.” 7 Every special relationship you have made is a substitute for God's Will “to make happy”, and therefore glorifies **your will** instead of **God's Will** because of the illusion that **your will and God's Will are different.**

Note # 26: Because there is only the Will of God, anything that does not support the concept of this Oneness is an illusion that attempts to make the separation appear real. The ego's purpose for the special relationship is not to make happy but rather to make one guilty for their perceived incompleteness or lack. Happiness and guilt are opposites and mutually exclusive. To make you or anything else guilty, even in an illusion, cannot be part of the Mind of God. God only knows His creations as perfect, whole and complete like himself. To make you guilty is an attempt to make the Oneness of God guilty. This is impossible since God's Will does not change. If this illusionary attempt at separation were real, rather than a fantastical dream, this would be an attack upon God. But God being everything cannot be attacked and there can be no will but the invulnerable Will of God.

T-17.IV.3. You have made very real relationships even in this world. **These real relationships of love and forgiveness that you have made in this world are real because their only function was God's function, which is “to make happy.”** 2 Yet you do not recognize **these real relationships**, because you have raised their substitutes to such predominance that, when truth calls to you, as **truth** does constantly, you answer with a substitute **for truth, which is a relationship whose purpose is “not to make happy”.** 3 Every special relationship you have made has, as its fundamental purpose, the aim of occupying your mind so completely that you will not hear the call of truth.

Note # 27: The ego's chief tool for proving that separation is real is the special relationship. The basis for the special relationship is that you are incomplete, not perfect nor whole. Because of this, the ego tells us to seek outside ourselves for our happiness. The special relationship is the ego's proof that we are a limited ego-body in competition with other ego-bodies. Identifying ourselves as the body, we fail to remember that we are the dreamer. We fail to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit that asks us to awaken to the fact that we are the unlimited spirit of the Mind of God.

T-17.IV.4. In a sense, the special relationship was the ego's answer to the creation of the Holy Spirit, Who was God's Answer to the separation. 2 For although the ego did not understand what had been created, **the ego** was aware of **the threat to the ego's existence that the Holy Spirit imposed.** 3 The whole defense system the ego evolved to protect the separation from the Holy Spirit was in response to the gift with which God blessed **the separation**, and by **God's** blessing enabled **the separation** to be healed. 4 This blessing, **which is the Holy Spirit**, holds within itself the truth about everything. 5 And the truth is that the Holy Spirit is in close relationship with you, because in **the Holy Spirit** is your relationship with God restored to you. 6 The relationship with **God** has never been broken, because the Holy Spirit has not been separate from anyone since the separation. 7 And through **the Holy Spirit** have all your holy relationships been carefully preserved, to serve God's purpose for you.

Note # 28: The moment that the Sonship's “mad idea” of separation was conceived, the Father placed within the Sonship the means to heal this “mad idea”. This “mad idea” was

the belief that the Sonship could not know itself or that it could be something other than God, Its Source. The means for the correction of this mistake is the Voice of the Holy Spirit, which teaches the Sonship the Atonement principle. The Holy Spirit reawakens us to our divine birthright. By accepting the Atonement for ourselves, we begin to awaken from the dream that we could be something other than the Oneness of the Mind of God. God is the cause and we are His effect. As such, we complete God and are the Oneness of "All That Is".

T-17.IV.5. The ego is always alert to threat, and the part of your mind into which the ego was accepted is very anxious to preserve its reason, as it sees it. **This part of the split-mind, which is the egoic mind of the little "s"self, has adopted the thought system of separation and limitation and, therefore, identifies itself as the ego-body and thus wants to preserve egoic thinking.** 2 **The part of split-mind, which is the egoic mind of the little "s"self,** does not realize that **the thought system of the ego** is totally insane. 3 And you must realize just what **your self-denial that the egoic thought system is totally insane** means if you would be restored to sanity. 4 The insane protect their **insane** thought systems, but **the insane,** do so insanely. p358 5 And all **the insane's** defenses are as insane as what **the insane's defenses** are supposed to protect. 6 The separation has nothing in it, no part, no "reason," and no attribute that is not insane. 7 And **the separation's** "protection", **which is the ego's insane thought system,** is part of **the separation and is** as insane as the whole. 8 The special relationship, which is **the ego's** chief defense, must therefore be insane.

Note # 29: If we remain within an insane thought system, we will never be able to recover our sanity. Yet, an insane thought system appears sane to its insane follower. That part of split-mind, which is the egoic mind of the little "s"self, has adopted the thought system of the ego and, therefore, identifies itself as an ego-body and wants to preserve egoic thinking. The part of the split-mind which we call the egoic mind of the little "s"self does not realize that the thought system of the ego is totally insane. Only with the help of someone who is both above the insane thought system and, yet, is also aware that you are a follower of the insanity of egoic thought, only that counselor can lead you out of the abyss. The Holy Spirit is this guide. Because of this, the ego sees the Holy Spirit as a threat to its survival. But in order for your decision-maker to seek such an external guide, the patient must trust its new counselor. Without faith in the Holy Spirit, we will not seek His guidance.

Since the separation is not real, it is nothing. Both the ego and the egoic thought system support the nothingness of the separation. Thus, the ego, itself, must be nothing.

T-17.IV.6. You have but little difficulty now in realizing that the **ego's** thought system **that** the special relationship protects is but a system of delusions. 2 You recognize, at least in general terms, that the ego is insane. 3 Yet the special relationship still seems to you somehow to be "different" **from the ego.** 4 Yet we have looked at **the special relationship** far closer than we have at many other aspects of the ego's thought system that you have been more willing to let go. 5 While this one, **the special relationship,** remains, you will not let the others **aspects of the ego's thought system** go. 6 For **the special relationship** is not different from **any other aspects of the ego's thought system.** 7 Retain **the special relationship** and you have retained the whole **of the ego's thought system.**

Note # 30: If you maintain any part of the ego's thought system, you remain trapped in the belief of limitation. Liberation from the ego's thought system only arrives with the complete rejection of all parts of the insanity. You can't get to Heaven if you are only a "little" insane. There is only truth or illusion. If you continue to choose to keep any part of the illusion, you deny the reality of the truth.

T-17.IV.7. It is essential to realize that all defenses <do> what they would defend. 2 The underlying basis for **the defenses'** effectiveness is that **the defenses** offer what they defend. 3 What **the defenses** defend is placed in **the defense** for safekeeping, and as **the defenses** operate they bring **what they defend** to you. 4 Every defense operates by giving gifts, and the gift is always a miniature of the thought system the defense protects, set in a golden frame. 5 The frame is very elaborate, all set with jewels, and deeply carved and polished. 6 **The defenses'** purpose is to be of value <in itself,> and to divert your attention from what **the defense** encloses. 7 But the frame without the picture you cannot have. 8 Defenses operate to make you think you can **have the frame without the picture.**

Note # 31: ACIM states that if we accept the defense, we are automatically accepting what the defense is defending. If the special relationship is the chief defense, or weapon, for the ego, than when we accept the special relationship, we are automatically accepting the ego. The ego and its thought system is the picture, which the special relationship was established to defend. We can't have the special relationship, the frame, without getting the ego, which is the picture. The frame may look pretty, but, in this case, it is designed to hide the ugliness that the picture holds.

T-17.IV.8. The special relationship has the most imposing and deceptive frame of all the defenses the ego uses. 2 **The ego's** thought system is offered here, surrounded by a frame so heavy and so elaborate that the picture is almost obliterated by **the frame's** imposing structure. 3 Into the frame, **which is the special relationship,** are woven all sorts of fanciful and fragmented illusions of love, set with dreams of sacrifice and self-aggrandizement, and interlaced with gilded threads of self-destruction. 4 The glitter of blood shines like rubies, and the tears are faceted like diamonds and gleam in the dim light in which the offering is made.

Note # 32: The special relationship is the ego's substitute for God's love. It is what the ego says will make you happy. Unfortunately, even if the special relationship were capable of giving you complete happiness, which it is not; this happiness would only be temporary, ending ultimately in the death of one of the parties. The special relationship attempts to offer happiness. Yet, egoic "happiness" only comes at the cost of pain, which once again proves that you are a limited ego-body. ACIM warns against buying the package for the beauty of the outside wrapper when all it holds inside is the pain of guilt, limitation and your littleness.

T-17.IV.9. Look at the <picture>, **the insanity of the ego's thought system.** 2 Do not let the frame **of the special relationship** distract you. 3 This gift **of the special relationship** is given you for your damnation, and if you take **this gift** you will believe that you <are> damned. 4 You cannot have the frame without the picture. 5 What you value is the frame, for there you see no conflict **in accepting the gift.** 6 Yet the frame is only the wrapping for the gift of conflict. 7 The frame is not the gift. 8 Be not deceived by the most

superficial aspects of **the egoic** thought system, for these aspects enclose the whole **egoic thought system**, complete in every aspect. p359 9 Death lies in this glittering gift. 10 Let not your gaze dwell on the hypnotic gleaming of the frame. 11 Look at the picture, and realize that death is offered you **within the picture**.

Note # 33: ACIM once again warns against buying the package for the beauty of the outside wrapper when all it holds inside is the pain of guilt, limitation and your littleness. You cannot have the so-called benefits of the special relationship without receiving what it holds inside itself. Hidden inside is the belief in sin, guilt, fear and sacrifice.

T-17.IV.10. That is why the holy instant is so important in the defense of truth. 2 The truth itself needs no defense, but you do need defense against your acceptance of the gift of death. 3 When you who are truth accept an idea so dangerous to truth, you threaten truth with destruction. 4 And your defense must now be undertaken, to keep truth whole. 5 The power of Heaven, the Love of God, the tears of Christ, and the joy of **God's eternal Spirit** are marshaled to defend you from your own **egoic** attack. 6 For you attack Them, being part of Them, and They must save you, for They love Themselves. (**"Them" references the previous mentioned power of Heaven, the Love of God, the tears of Christ, and the joy of God's eternal Spirit, or Holy Spirit.**)

Note # 34: Being part of the whole, our self-attack is an attack on the wholeness of the Oneness. Because of this attack on the Oneness, the entire powers of the Oneness are available to correct the mistakes that arise from the illusion of separation. The holy instant is the removal of all judgments, which make up our egoic past.

T-17.IV.11. The holy instant is a miniature of Heaven, sent you *<from>* Heaven. 2 **The holy instant** is a picture, too, set in a frame. 3 Yet if you accept this gift of **the holy instant**, you will not see the frame at all, because the gift can only be accepted through your willingness to focus all your attention on the picture, **which is the holy instant**. 4 The holy instant is a miniature of eternity. 5 **The holy instant** is a picture of timelessness, set in a frame of time. 6 If you focus on the picture, you will realize that it was only the frame that made you think it *<was>* a picture. 7 Without the frame, the picture is seen as what **the picture** represents, **which is the truth of Heaven**. 8 For as the whole thought system of the ego lies in **the ego's** gifts, so the whole of Heaven lies in this instant, borrowed from eternity and set in time for you.

Note # 35: The holy instant mirrors the real world, the truth of Heaven. In the holy instant, there is the suspension of the past judgments that prevented you from utilizing the vision of Christ in the *<now>*. In the holy instant we see the *<now>* of the truth of what we are, which is love and the extension of love. This vision of Christ is the gift that the thought system of the Holy Spirit brings.

T-17.IV.12. Two gifts are offered you, **truth or illusion, eternal life or death**. 2 Each is complete, and cannot be partially accepted. 3 Each is a picture of all that you can have, seen very differently. 4 You cannot compare their value by comparing a picture to a frame. 5 It must be the pictures only that you compare, or the comparison is wholly without meaning. 6 Remember that it is the picture that is the gift. 7 And only on this basis are you really free to choose. 8 Look at the pictures. 9 Both of them. 10 **The ego's** is a tiny picture,

hard to see at all beneath the heavy shadows of **the picture's** enormous and disproportionate enclosure, **its frame, which is the egoic special relationship.** 11 The other, **the Holy Spirit's picture,** is lightly framed by **time** and hung in light, lovely to look upon for what it is, **which is Truth.**

Note # 36: The fruits of the two thought systems bear different results. The gifts of the ego are sin, guilt, fear, pain, suffering, sacrifice and death. They are the gifts of nothing and the denial of your divine birthright. The gifts of the Holy Spirit offer you everything because they offer you the truth about yourself. The Holy Spirit freely gives happiness, love and the peace of God to us. When will we stop being too proud to accept the gift of the truth about what we are? We are the unlimited extension of the Mind of God.

T-17.IV.13. You who have tried so hard, and are still trying, to fit the better picture into the wrong frame and so combine what cannot be combined, accept this **fact that these opposing thought systems cannot be combined or coexist** and be glad: These pictures are each framed perfectly for what **these pictures'** represent. 2 **The ego's picture** is framed to be out of focus and not seen. 3 **The Holy Spirit's picture** is framed for perfect clarity. 4 The picture of darkness and of death grows less convincing as you search out **the picture of death** amid its wrappings, **which is the special relationship.** p360 5 As each senseless stone that seems to shine from the frame in darkness is exposed to light, **the frame** becomes dull and lifeless, and ceases to distract you from the picture. 6 And finally you look upon the picture itself, seeing at last that, unprotected by the frame, **the picture** has no meaning.

Note # 37: When we understand that the ego's gift is a picture of guilt, pain and suffering, the original desire for the possessing of the gift for the beauty of the wrapping paper, which is the special relationship, wears off. Our decision-maker can now rethink whether we should accept the ego's gift, which is only the promise of death.

T-17.IV.14. The other picture, **the Holy Spirit's,** is lightly framed, for time cannot contain eternity. 2 There is no distraction here. 3 The picture of Heaven and eternity grows more convincing as you look at **the picture.** 4 And now, by real comparison, a transformation of both pictures can at last occur. 5 And each is given its rightful place when both are seen in relation to each other. 6 The dark picture, brought to light, is not perceived as fearful, but the fact that **the dark picture** is just a picture, **or an illusionary dream** is brought home at last. 7 And what you see there **in the ego's dark picture of death and limitation,** you will recognize as what it is; a picture of what you thought was real, and nothing more. 8 For beyond this picture **of death and limitation** you will see nothing, **for the picture holds nothing but an imaged illusionary fantasy.**

Note # 38: Once we accept the Atonement for ourselves, God Himself will return us to Heaven and knowledge. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we come upon the holy instant where we gladly suspend all past judgments and clearly experience the <now>. The dark picture that the ego painted has been based on our past judgments of the guilt of our brother and ourselves. The Atonement reestablishes the guiltlessness of the Sonship. The reality of the Sonship remains perfect, whole and complete. This perfection is the picture that the holy instant offers to us.

T-17.IV.15. The picture of light, in clear-cut and unmistakable contrast, is transformed into what lies beyond the picture, **which is the truth of Heaven**. 2 As you look on **what lies beyond the picture**, you realize that it is not a picture, but a reality. 3 This is no figured representation of a thought system, but the Thought itself. 4 What **the thought system** represents, **which is Truth**, is there. 5 The frame **of time** fades gently and God rises to your remembrance, offering you the whole of creation in exchange for your little **egoic** picture, wholly without value and entirely deprived of meaning.

Note # 39: The holy instant mirrors the reality of heaven. Once we accept the Atonement for ourselves, we have no doubt about what we are. We have accepted our divine birthright. Now God, our Father, will take the final step in the process of our return to truth. Knowledge will be restored as we return to the whole-mindedness of Heaven. We will take our rightful place as part of the Oneness that is the Mind of God.

T-17.IV.16. As God ascends into **God's** rightful place and you to **your rightful place**, you will experience again the meaning of relationship and know the meaning of relationship, **which is "to make happy"**, to be true. 2 Let us ascend in peace together to the Father, by giving **the Father** ascendance in our minds. 3 We will gain everything by giving **the Father** the power and the glory, and keeping no illusions of where **the power and the glory** are. 4 **The power and the glory** are in us, through **God's** ascendance **in our minds**. 5 What **the Father** has given is **the Father's**. 6 **What the Father has given** shines in every part of **the Father**, as in the whole. 7 The whole reality of your relationship with **the Father** lies in our relationship to one another. 8 The holy instant shines alike on all relationships, for in **all relationships, God, your brother and you** *<are>* one. 9 For here is only healing, already complete and perfect. 10 For here is God, and where **God** is only the perfect and complete can be. P.361

Note # 40: We are perfect, whole and complete because that is what the extension of the Mind of God must be. We are a Oneness. Being a Oneness, we are host to God, Himself. There is no separation. There is just the Oneness of God. In the holographic Mind of God, each indivisible part contains the whole and the whole contains each part. They are inseparable. There is no difference amongst a Oneness of "All That Is".

V. The Healed Relationship

T-17.V.1. The holy relationship is the expression of the holy instant in living in this world. 2 Like everything about salvation, the holy instant is a practical device, witnessed to by **the holy relationship's** results. 3 The holy instant never fails. 4 The experience of **the holy relationship** is always felt. 5 Yet without expression **the holy instant** is not remembered. 6 The holy relationship is a constant reminder of the experience in which the relationship became what it is. 7 And as the unholy relationship is a continuing hymn of hate in praise of its maker, **the ego**, so is the holy relationship a happy song of praise to the Redeemer of relationships, **the Holy Spirit**.

Note # 41: The holy relationship is the expression of the holy instant. When an egoic special relationship is given to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit can convert this relationship into a holy one. The ego's goal for an unholy relationship is to get something from another that we perceive we lack. The Holy Spirit transforms the relationship's egoic goal into alignment with God's purpose for all relations, which is "to make happy." "To make

happy” is to accept truth, which is the denial of illusion. To make happy is to share and give unconditional forgiveness and love. Forgiveness is only possible when we suspend all judgments and live in the <now> rather than in egoic misperceptions and past judgments.

T-17.V.2. The holy relationship, a major step toward the perception of the real world, is learned. 2 **The holy relationship** is the old, unholy relationship, transformed and seen anew. 3 The holy relationship is a phenomenal teaching accomplishment. 4 In all **the holy relationship’s** aspects, as **the holy relationship** begins, develops and becomes accomplished, **the holy relationship** represents the reversal of the unholy relationship. 5 Be comforted in this **reversal of the unholy relationship into a holy relationship**; the only difficult phase **in this reversal of the unholy relationship into a holy relationship** is **in** the beginning. 6 For here **in the beginning**, the goal of the relationship is abruptly shifted **from the goal of verifying the reality of illusion** to the exact opposite of what it was, **which is verification for the truth**. 7 This **change in purpose for verification of truth, which is to make happy**, is the first result of offering the relationship to the Holy Spirit, to use for **the Holy Spirit’s** purposes.

Note # 42: When we ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the purpose of the experience is shifted to relearning the truth about our brother and ourselves. Previously, under the thought system of the ego, the goal was to maintain or increase guilt and, therefore, prove that we are a limited ego-body and separate from the Will of God. The Holy Spirit transforms the relationship into God’s purpose for all relationships, which is to make happy. Now the goal is to know the truth for the truth about our divine birthright is what makes us happy. We express this truth by recognizing the truth about our brother’s reality, his spiritual nature. Often, this may mean forgiving our brother for the wrongs of which we have falsely accused him of committing. Since we are interconnected with our brother, to give is to receive. Because the Holy Spirit has changed the purpose of the ego’s special relationship from illusion to truth, this first change may often appear to be a radical shift for the parties involved. By keeping your faith in the Holy Spirit, God’s purpose will be served.

T-17.V.3. This invitation **for the guidance of the Holy Spirit** is accepted immediately, and the Holy Spirit wastes no time in introducing the practical results of asking **the Holy Spirit** to enter **as your guide**. 2 At once, **the Holy Spirit’s** goal replaces **your egoic goal of attempting to make illusions real**. 3 This **replacing of goals from the ego’s to the Holy Spirit’s** is accomplished very rapidly, but **this change in goals** makes the relationship seem disturbed disjunctive and even quite distressing. 4 The reason is quite clear. 5 For the **old egoic** relationship as it *<is>* is out of line with **the relationship’s** own **new goal, which supports the Holy Spirit’s thought system, and the old egoic handling of the relationship** is clearly unsuited to the **new purpose** that has been accepted for **the old relationship. The new purpose is to witness for the truth of union and the denial of the separation**. 6 In its unholy condition, *<your>* **egoic** goal was all that seemed to give **the unholy relationship** meaning. 7 Now **the previous egoic handling method for this relationship** seems to make no sense. 8 Many relationships have been broken off at this point, and the pursuit of the old **egoic** goal re-established in another relationship. 9 For once the unholy relationship has accepted the goal of holiness, the unholy relationship can never again be what it was.

Note # 43: When we change the purpose of an old unholy, egoic relationship from one based on limitation to a holy relationship based on the extension of love and forgiveness, the old relationship's new purpose will seem unsatisfying to the eyes of the ego. If we respond fearfully to this change in purpose, we will revert back into egoic thinking. This could result in our abandoning this newly modified relationship, which is based on love. The comfort of egoic thinking is based on fear and lack. Since the old relationship has been changed, we may seek to replace the newly modified holy relationship with a brand new unholy egoic special relationship. Thus, the ego replaces the old recently modified but now holy relationship with a new unholy special relationship. Because of our fear and lack of faith in the Holy Spirit, we have reverted back to the guidance system of the ego. Because old egoic thought patterns change slowly, it is not unusual to see some vacillation between the two thought systems with each vying for the decision-maker's ear. Eventually, the decision-maker must and will make the choice only for truth.

T-17.V.4. The temptation of the ego becomes extremely intense with this shift in goals. 2 For the **old** relationship has not as yet been changed sufficiently to make **the ego's** former goal completely without attraction, and the **old** relationship's structure is "threatened" by the recognition of the **old** relationship's structure inappropriateness for meeting its new purpose **which the Holy Spirit has given it**. 3 The conflict between the goal and the structure of the relationship is so apparent that **the two-thought system's differing purposes** cannot coexist. 4 Yet now the goal will not be changed. p362 5 **For the goal of the Holy Spirit's purpose is** set firmly in the unholy relationship, there is no course except to change the relationship to fit the goal. 6 Until this happy solution is seen and accepted as the only way out of the conflict, the relationship may seem to be severely strained.

Note # 44: Having adopted the goal of the Holy Spirit's thought system to the old ego's special relationship, prior acceptable thinking and activities will no longer meet the new goals for the relationship, which is "to make happy." In the past, sacrifice and "giving to get" would have been considered acceptable activities for a relationship based on lack. Now these same activities are seen as unacceptable options. We need to modify, or change, our perception and our behavior within the relationship so that the old relationship will now fulfill its new purpose. Without this change in viewpoint, there will be an ongoing conflict between our egoic misperception and behaviors and the new goal for the relationship that has been set by the Holy Spirit. The happy solution is to accept the correct perception from the Holy Spirit so that both perception and purpose will be in alignment with the thought system of the Holy Spirit. Only activities that support the purpose of love and forgiveness will be viewed as acceptable outcomes.

T-17.V.5. It would not be kinder to shift the goal more slowly, for the contrast would be obscured, and the ego **would then be** given time to reinterpret each slow step according to **the ego's** liking. 2 Only a radical shift in purpose could induce a complete change of mind about what the whole relationship is for. 3 As this change develops and is finally accomplished, **the relationship** grows increasingly beneficent and joyous. 4 But at the beginning, the situation is experienced as very precarious. 5 A relationship, undertaken by two individuals for their unholy purposes, suddenly has holiness for its goal. 6 As these two contemplate their relationship from the point of view of this new purpose **of holiness**, **the two individuals** are inevitably appalled. 7 **The two individuals'** perception of the

relationship may even become quite disorganized. 8 And yet, the former organization of **the two individuals'** perception no longer serves the purpose of **holiness that** they have agreed to meet.

Note # 45: By radically shifting the goal of the relationship, the Holy Spirit limits the ego's ability to muddy the waters. Because of the large contrast between each thought system's goals, the natural outcomes are obvious. This prevents the ego from making minor changes in its thinking. If allowed, the ego will use its power of misperception to reconvert the relationship back into a relationship that bears false witness and claims that both our partner and ourselves are limited ego-bodies. Since the ego believes in varying degrees of difficulty, slow modification of goals are easily accommodated in egoic thinking. To the Holy Spirit, there is no degree in difficulty since there is only the true and the false, and the false is the belief in nothingness. Since there is no order of difficulty in miracles, converting one form of illusion to truth is no harder to convert than any other form of illusion. Any illusion need only be brought before the light of truth and the illusion will disappear. The Holy Spirit knows that the removal of illusion, which is the belief in nothingness, takes no time at all. To the Holy Spirit, time's only purpose is to allow you to choose again. Once the choice for the thought system of the Holy Spirit is made, the Holy Spirit's reaction to our misperception of the relationship's purpose is immediate. Correction of the relationship's purpose is also immediate. Instead of the ego's goal of guilt, we now have God's goal for relationships which is 'to make happy.' Joining and Oneness are now the goal.

T-17.V.6. This **early period of conflict that may appear quite disorganized and unsettling to the participants** is the time for *<faith. >* 2 You let this goal of **holiness** be set for you **by the Holy Spirit**. 3 That was an act of faith. 4 Do not abandon faith, now that the rewards of faith are being introduced. 5 If you believed the Holy Spirit was there to accept the relationship, why would you now not still believe that **the Holy Spirit** is there to purify what **the Holy Spirit** has taken under **the Holy Spirit's** guidance? 6 Have faith in your brother in what but seems to be a trying time. 7 The goal *<is>* set. 8 And your relationship has sanity as **the relationship's new** purpose. 9 For now you find yourself in an insane egoic relationship, recognized as such in the light of **the ego's** goal.

Note # 46: The ego's goal of littleness for any special relationship no longer makes any sense when compared to the happiness of being the Big "S" Self. We now understand that the special unholy relationship as practiced under the thought system of the ego is an insane substitute for God's Love. We can no longer return to the old relationship, which was controlled by our ego. We now realize that egoic thinking demanded that we sacrifice our happiness in order to claim that we were limited and incomplete.

Although ACIM states that we will not wish to vacillate or return this relationship to the control of the ego, our life's experience demonstrates that we often do. Many times we "temporarily forgive" another only to reassert the person's guilt at a later date. Obviously, this initial "forgiving" was not taken to heart. This is because we were in the early period of changing the purpose of the relationship and our faith in the Holy Spirit's guidance was minimal. Because we still valued some of the old aspects of the special relationship, we allowed ourselves to slip back into egoic thinking. Rather than beat ourselves up for our inconsistencies, we need to realize that we can choose again. The Holy Spirit's patience is unlimited.

T-17.V.7. Now the ego counsels thus; substitute for this **old relationship and its new goal is truth** for another relationship to which your former goal of **guilt and illusion is still** quite appropriate. 2 **Next the ego counsels** you can escape from your distress only by getting rid of your brother. 3 **Then the ego counsels** you need not part entirely if you choose not to do so. 4 But you must exclude major areas of fantasy from your brother, to save your **ego's definition for** sanity. 5 *<Hear not this now! >* 6 Have faith in **the Holy Spirit** who answered you. 7 **The Holy Spirit** heard. 8 Has **the Holy Spirit** not been very explicit in **the Holy Spirit's** answer? 9 **Because you chose to listen to the Holy Spirit** you are not now wholly insane. 10 Can you deny that **the Holy Spirit** has given you a most explicit statement? 11 Now **the Holy Spirit** asks for faith a little longer, even in bewilderment. 12 For this **confusion over the relationship's new purpose** will go away and you will see the justification for your faith emerge, to bring you shining conviction. 13 Abandon **the Holy Spirit** not now, nor your brother. 14 This relationship has been reborn as holy.

Note #47: ACIM asks that we keep our faith in our original choice for the Holy Spirit that was the correct choice. Do not waiver in your faith in the Holy Spirit. His function is to return you to the truth. The Holy Spirit is supported by the Power of God and cannot fail in His mission to return the split-minded Son to right-mindedness. The Holy Spirit has reinterpreted or converted the ego's special relationship into a learning device for the restoration of the Sonship's holiness. Do not abandon your newly found faith in the Holy Spirit and your brother, for the benefits will soon become apparent to you. The same relationship that the ego made unholy in its desire to exclude and separate, the Holy Spirit has now made holy through joining and inclusion.

T-17.V.8. Accept with gladness what you do not understand, and let **what you do not understand** be explained to you as you perceive **the relationship's new purpose** work in **this relationship** to make it holy. 2 You will find many opportunities to blame your brother for the "failure" of your relationship, for **your relationship** will seem at times to have no purpose. 3 A sense of aimlessness will come to haunt you, and to remind you of all the ways you once sought for satisfaction and thought you found **satisfaction under the guidance of the ego's thought system.** 4 Forget not now the misery you really found **under the guidance of the ego's thought system,** and do not breathe life into your failing ego. 5 For your **special relationship** has not been disrupted. 6 **Your special relationship has been saved by the Holy Spirit and transformed into a holy relationship again.**

Note # 48: ACIM states that we may not always understand the ways that the Holy Spirit goes about achieving Its function. However, this is no reason to lose faith in the Holy Spirit's ability to get the desired results. The Holy Spirit knows the complete interrelationship among the entire Sonship. He knows God's Plan for the Sonship's salvation and the Holy Spirit will complete it perfectly.

T-17.V.9. You are very new in the ways of salvation, and think you have lost your way. p363 2 *<Your>* **egoic way** *<is>* lost, but think not this is loss **for the ego's way was nothing.** 3 In your newness, remember that you and your brother have started again, *<together.>* 4 And take **your brother's** hand, to walk together along a road far more familiar than you now believe. 5 Is it not certain that you will remember a goal unchanged

throughout eternity? 6 For you have chosen but the goal of God, from which your true intent was never absent.

Note # 49: God's goal for relationships is "to make happy". This is the truth of our purpose and we will extend this same purpose of "to make happy" to our own creations. We cannot complete our function as co-creator with our Father unless we create like Him. When we extend love, this true act of creation makes happy "All that Is" and you are "That One."

T-17.V.10. Throughout the Sonship is the song of freedom heard, in joyous echo of your choice to **choose for the though system of the Holy Spirit**. 2 You have joined with many in the holy instant, and **many** have joined with you. 3 Think not your choice will leave you comfortless, for God Himself has blessed your holy relationship. 4 Join in **God's** blessing, and withhold not **your blessing** upon **the holy instant**. 5 For all **your holy relationship** needs now is your blessing, that you may see that in **the holy relationship** rests salvation. 6 Condemn salvation not, for **the holy relationship and the holy instant** has come to you. 7 And welcome **the holy relationship and the holy instant** together, for **the holy instant** has come to join you and your brother together in a relationship in which all the Sonship is together blessed.

Note # 50: Because we are joined within the Oneness of the Mind of God, our reality is a shared reality. We are asked to freely accept the choice for the Holy Spirit and thus, accept the Atonement for ourselves. By accepting the Atonement for ourselves, we accept the Atonement for the entire Sonship.

T-17.V.11. You undertook, together **with your brother**, to invite the Holy Spirit into your relationship. 2 **The Holy Spirit** could not have entered otherwise. 3 Although you may have made many mistakes since **the initial invitation to the Holy Spirit**, you have also made enormous efforts to help **the Holy Spirit** do **the Holy Spirit's** work. 4 And **the Holy Spirit** has not been lacking in appreciation for all you have done for **the Holy Spirit**. 5 Nor does **the Holy Spirit** see the mistakes **you perceive that you have made** at all. 6 Have you, **like your Teacher, the Holy Spirit**, been similarly grateful to your brother? 7 Have you consistently appreciated **your brother's** good efforts, and overlooked **your brother's** mistakes? 8 Or has your appreciation for **your brother** flickered and grown dim in what seemed to be the light of **your brother's** mistakes? 9 Perhaps you are now entering upon a campaign to blame **your brother** for the discomfort of the situation in which you find yourself. 10 And by this lack of thanks and gratitude you make yourself unable to express the holy instant, and thus lose sight of **the holy instant**.

Note # 51: The Holy Spirit has faith in us. The Holy Spirit's focus is on what we do that aids in the correction process. If we error, the Holy Spirit does not condemn, It merely asks that we choose again. We need to have similar respect for our brother. For, once again, to give is to receive and thus, when you are healed, you are not healed alone.

T-17.V.12. The experience of an instant, however compelling **the experience of an instant** may be, is easily forgotten if you allow time to close over **the experience of an instant**. p364 2 **The experience of an instant** must be kept shining and gracious in your awareness of time, but not concealed within **your awareness of time**. 3 The instant

remains. 4 But where are you? 5 To give thanks to your brother is to appreciate the holy instant, and thus enable **the holy instant's** results to be accepted and shared. 6 To attack your brother is not to lose the instant, but to make **the instant** powerless in **the instant's** effects.

Note # 52: If we forget the holy instant and avoid the continued sharing of it with our brother, the result will fade from our split-mind. Time is needed only when we believe that we have choices to make. As long as we believe that we have a choice between truth and illusion, we will need time. For time is required for the decision-maker to choose again. When we accept the truth of our oneness with our brother and with God, there will be no need for time. Time will no longer serve any function since with the return to knowledge there is no change for time to measure. Time is irrelevant since we are in the experience of the <now>.

T-17.V.13. You <have> received the holy instant, but you may have established a condition in which you cannot use **the holy instant**. 2 As a result, you do not realize that **the holy instant** is with you still. 3 And by cutting yourself off from **the holy instant's** expression, you have denied yourself **the benefit of the holy instant**. 4 You reinforce this **denial to yourself of the benefits of the holy instant** every time you attack your brother, for the attack must blind you to yourself, **your Big "S" Self**. 5 And it is impossible to deny **your Big "S" Self**, and to recognize what has been given and received by you **which is the holy instant**.

Note # 53: The benefits of the holy instant are never lost, but you may choose not to recognize them. The Holy Spirit will save these benefits for you until you choose to reclaim your divine birthright. To fail to see your brother's perfection and guiltlessness is to deny the benefits of the holy instant to yourself. This maintains the illusion that God's Son is guilty and thus, not perfect, whole and complete. You have refused to accept salvation for your brother and, therefore, have refused to accept it for yourself.

T-17.V.14. You and your brother stand together in the holy presence of truth itself. 2 Here is the goal together with you **and your brother**. 3 Think you not the goal itself will gladly arrange the means for **the goal's** accomplishment? 4 It is just this same discrepancy between the purpose that has been accepted and the means as they stand now which seems to make you suffer, but which makes Heaven glad. 5 If Heaven were outside you, you could not share in **Heaven's** gladness. 6 Yet because **Heaven** is within, the gladness of **Heaven**, too, is **your gladness**. 7 You, **your brother and Heaven**<are> joined in purpose, but remain still separate and divided on the means **to accomplish the return to truth**. 8 Yet the goal of **the return to truth** is fixed, firm and unalterable, and the means will surely fall in place because the goal is sure. 9 And you will share the gladness of the Sonship that **the goal is fixed and the means will fall in place and that this** is so.

Note # 54: The return to truth and the return to Heaven are the same. For the acceptance of the truth is the acceptance of your divine birthright.

T-17.V.15. As you begin to recognize and accept the gifts you have so freely given to your brother, you will also accept the effects of the holy instant and use **the effects of the holy instant** to correct all your mistakes and free you from **your mistakes'** results. 2 And

learning **how to correct and free yourself from your mistakes**, you will have also learned how to release all the Sonship, and offer **this learning** in gladness and thanksgiving to Him, **the Holy Spirit**, Who gave you your release, and Who (**the Holy Spirit**) would extend **this learning** through you.

Note # 55: The acceptance of the holy instant is the removal of all judgment. With the removal of judgment, the Holy Spirit can reawaken the Christ vision that has been lying dormant within your mind. The Christ was never asleep but prior to the holy instant we had refused to listen to the voice of our Higher Self. We had chosen to follow the ego's thought system. By accepting the Atonement for ourselves, we reawaken to the truth about our guiltless nature, which is our Big "S" Self, the Christ. By accepting the thought system of the Holy Spirit, we become teachers of the innocence of God's Son. When we forgiving our brother for the wrongs that we perceive he has committed, we teach and grant forgiveness to both our brother and ourselves. Mistakes only require correction, not punishment. We understand our joint singular purpose and understand that there is only one means for the return to truth and that is to accept the Atonement for ourselves. Only God's Plan for salvation works and it is the only plan we want.

Note: We speak of the holy instant as the suspension of judgment, which allows the granting of forgiveness. This is the same thing as the achievement of the miracle. For a miracle is merely a change in perception within one's own mind. Thus forgiveness, the miracle and the holy instant are closely related. Forgiveness is the change in perception that is the miracle and the holy instant is the moment when this occurs.

VI. Setting the Goal

T-17.VI.1. The practical application of the Holy Spirit's purpose is extremely simple, but **the Holy Spirit's purpose, which is how to correct and free you from your mistakes**, is unequivocal. 2 In fact, in order **for the Holy Spirit's purpose** to be simple **the Holy Spirit's purpose** <must> be unequivocal. 3 The simple is merely what is easily understood, and for **the Holy Spirit's purpose to be clearly understood**, it is apparent that **the Holy Spirit's purpose** must be clear. 4 The setting of the Holy Spirit's goal is general. p365 5 Now **the Holy Spirit** will work with you to make **the Holy Spirit's goal** specific, for application <is> specific. 6 There are certain very specific guidelines **the Holy Spirit** provides for any situation, but remember that you do not yet realize **the Holy Spirit's specific guidelines for any situation are a universal application**. 7 Therefore, **because you fail to realize the Holy Spirit's guidelines are universally applicable in every situation**, it is essential at this point to use **the Holy Spirit's guidelines** in each situation separately, until you can more safely look beyond each situation, in an understanding far broader than you now possess.

Note # 56: The Holy Spirit's goal is to bring illusions before the truth so that the illusions will disappear. This is how the Holy Spirit corrects and frees you from your mistakes. Truth is truth, and illusions are false. The false can have no real effect on the truth for the truth will always be truth. The false, however, must give way to the truth. The Holy Spirit simply applies this idea to all illusions that we hold about our world of perception and time. Because we believe that there is an order of difficulty, we think that one illusion can be more difficult to correct than another illusion. Truth dissolves all illusions. The Holy Spirit knows that there is no order of difficulty in correcting the false. But since we believe that there are different forms and degrees of fantasy, we insist on correcting each illusion as if it

were different from all other illusions. Because of this, the Holy Spirit is willing to correct each illusion one at a time, until we learn the universal applicability of the correcting process.

T-17.VI.2. In any situation in which you are uncertain, the first thing to consider, very simply, is "What do I want to come of this **situation**? 2 What is **this situation** *<for>*?" 3 The clarification of the goal belongs at the beginning, for it is this **clarification of the goal**, which will determine the outcome. 4 In the ego's procedure this is reversed. 5 **In the ego's procedure**, the situation becomes the determiner of the outcome, **and therefore, the outcome** can be anything. 6 The reason for **the ego's** disorganized approach is evident. 7 The ego does not know what **the ego** wants to come of the situation. 8 **The ego** is aware of what **the ego** does not want, but only that. 9 **The ego** has no positive goal at all

Note # 57: The Holy Spirit's thought system says that we first need to establish a goal for any particular situation. Once the goal is established, the mind can go about the task of accomplishing the goal. For the mind is goal oriented and can create its own provisional reality. Yet, the ego, not knowing what you are, has no positive goals for you. The ego only knows it does not want you to rediscover the truth about yourself since this would result in the destruction of the ego. Because the ego has no positive goal for you, the ego allows the situation to control the outcome. Any result that keeps you in victim consciousness will suit the ego just fine. If the ego had you consciously predetermine the goal that you wish to achieve before entering into any situation, this would increase your belief that your own mind has some control over your fate. You would begin to move into responsibility thinking. You would become the cause of all you "see". Rather than just reacting to a situation, you can actually realize that you are the source of the situation that you wish to observe. Your ego does not want to reawaken your decision-maker to the fact that your mind creates your own "reality".

T-17.VI.3. Without a clear-cut, positive goal, set at the outset, the situation just seems to happen, and makes no sense until **the situation** has already happened. 2 Then you look back at **the situation**, and try to piece together what **the situation** must have meant. 3 And you will be wrong **about what the situation meant**. 4 Not only is your judgment in the past, but you have no idea what should happen, **therefore, it is impossible for you to correctly determine what the situation meant**. 5 No goal was set with which to bring the means, **the situation**, in line. 6 And now the only judgment left to make is whether or not the ego likes **the situation's outcome**; is **the situation's outcome** acceptable, or does **the situation's outcome** call for vengeance? 7 The absence of a criterion for outcome, set in advance, makes understanding doubtful and evaluation impossible.

Note # 58: If we are sailing a ship and have no predetermined destination, any direction will do. Since we lack a precise destination, only upon our arrival at a port will we be able to decide whether we like the outcome of the trip. The Holy Spirit's thought system tells you to predetermine where you want to go and then let the mind sail you to your predetermined port of call. Your destination is now of your own making.

T-17.VI.4. The value of deciding in advance what you want to happen is simply that you will perceive the situation as a means to *<make>* **your goal of what you want to happen**, happen. 2 You will therefore make every effort to overlook what interferes with

the accomplishment of your objective, and concentrate on everything that helps you meet **your objective**. 3 It is quite noticeable that this approach of **deciding in advance what you want the outcome to be** has brought you closer to the Holy Spirit's sorting out of truth and falsity. 4 The true becomes what can be used to meet the goal. 5 The false becomes the useless from this point of view. 6 The situation now has meaning, but only because the goal has made **the situation** meaningful.

Note # 59: Because you have predetermined what the desired outcome should be, you now have measurable criteria against which you can measure the results. By setting goals and working toward their achievement, we have started back up the ladder from victim consciousness and begun to reclaim our role as decision-maker. We become at least proactive, rather than only reactive, to the situation. We have begun to realize that the mind's thoughts have creative power. Our thoughts become the things of time and space. We have begun the road to the rediscovery of the creative power of our mind and that we are destined to be a co-creator with our Father.

T-17.VI.5. The goal of truth has further practical advantages. 2 If the situation is used for truth and sanity, **the situation's** outcome must be peace. 3 And this **peace** is quite apart from what the outcome *<is.>* 4 If peace is the condition of truth and sanity, and **if peace** cannot be without **truth and sanity**, where peace is, **truth and sanity** must be. p366 5 Truth comes of itself. 6 If you experience peace, it is because the truth has come to you and you will see the outcome truly, for deception cannot prevail against you. 7 You will recognize the outcome *<because>* you are at peace. 8 Here again you see the opposite of the ego's way of looking, for the ego believes the situation brings the experience. 9 The Holy Spirit knows that the situation is as the goal determines **the situation**, and **the situation** is experienced according to the goal.

Note # 60: The Holy Spirit knows that your mind either creates or makes what you experience and perceive and this then becomes your provisional reality. The mind, even when split, has tremendous powers to project or to create what it wants. When the mind makes, you project thoughts of fear and exclusion into your world of provisional reality. When you create, you extend and share thoughts of inclusion. Thoughts that include are forgiving and loving. Thoughts of exclusion are attacking and fear-based thoughts. In either projection or extension, the thought comes first. It is this thought that generates the situation that is then observed as the predetermined outcome. But your mind's thought was the originator of this process. You are the source of what you choose to experience. The ego claims that you are the powerless victim and that everything you perceive is originated from outside yourselves.

T-17.VI.6. The goal of truth requires faith. 2 Faith is implicit in the acceptance of the Holy Spirit's purpose, and this faith is all-inclusive. 3 Where the goal of truth is set, there faith must be. 4 The Holy Spirit sees the situation as a whole. 5 The goal establishes the fact that everyone involved in **the situation** will play his part in **the goal of the situation's** accomplishment. 6 This is inevitable **that each will play his part and that the goal will be achieved**. 7 No one will fail in anything. 8 This seems to ask for faith beyond you, and beyond what **faith** you can give. 9 Yet this **limited belief in your faith in truth** is so only from the viewpoint of the ego, for the ego believes in "solving" conflict through fragmentation, and does not perceive the situation as a whole. 10 Therefore, **the ego** seeks

to split off segments of the situation and deal with **each segment** separately, for **the ego** has faith in separation and not in wholeness.

Note # 61: We need to have faith that no task that is required for our reclaiming of our divine birthright is beyond the power of the Holy Spirit. God gave the Holy Spirit its mission. Its mission is the return of the split-minded to the truth and the Holy Spirit cannot fail to fulfill this function. We need to maintain our faith in our Teacher, the Holy Spirit, by continuing to turn over all our problems to Him. The Holy Spirit is aware of God's Plan for salvation and understanding that all interactions with our brothers are opportunities for miracles. He will return us to the truth of our oneness with our brother and, therefore, with the truth about what we are.

The ego wants to maintain your belief in the reality of the separation. The ego attempts to maintain the separation by fragmenting the Sonship into individualized parts, all of which are in competition for limited resources. The ego deals with each party's situation as unrelated to the whole. To the ego, the parts are different from the whole. Each party is to get what is best for their own perceived special interest. Each individual situation is a battle to be fought within a zero sum game. Based on what the ego perceives, we attack or barter. Either attack or barter proves that we are separate from our brother. Thus, the outcome of each situation does not matter to the ego, for in either case we get to remain guilty and, therefore, remain separate from God.

T-17.VI.7. Confronted with any aspect of the situation that seems to be difficult, the ego will attempt to take **these difficult** aspects elsewhere, and resolve **these difficult aspects elsewhere where they appear to be separated from the whole.** 2 And **this resolving of difficult aspects without considering their impact on the whole** will seem to be successful, except that this attempt of **fragmentation of the situation into seemingly unrelated parts** conflicts with **the unity of the whole**, and must obscure the goal of truth. 3 And peace **within the ego's thought system** will not be experienced except in fantasy. 4 Truth has not come because faith has been denied **to truth**, being withheld from where **faith** rightfully belonged. 5 Thus do you lose the understanding of the situation the goal of truth would bring. 6 For fantasy solutions bring but the illusion of experience, and the illusion of peace is not the condition in which truth can enter.

Note # 62: The ego's solution to any "problem" is to paste something over the top of the problem and thus, cover-up the problem. The problem always stems from our denial of our One Self. Everything after this denial of our Oneness is just another illusion over the first illusion that we could be separate from God. Rather than deal with the problem at the problem's source, which is the denial of what we are, the ego directs our attention to some later effect, or result, from the first problem. The ego makes and places a new illusion over the effect from the first illusion in an attempt to cover up, or hide, the previous illusion. Each new cover-up moves us further and further away from the truth. Now we are three illusions removed from the truth instead of only two illusions. The ego can even make up an illusion that we are at peace within our pursuit of egoic littleness. But this false peace is only an illusion. How can we, who have been given everything, be happy with the nothingness of a fantasy? To correct the problem, we must correct the problem at the source of the error. The error's source is in the split-minded's belief that it could be something other than as God created it. This is the thought that created the problem and birthed the world of perception. We cannot solve the problem within the dream itself, for

the solution would still only be a fantasy. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to reawaken the sleeping Child to the truth and then watch the dream of separation disappear.

VII. The Call for Faith

T-17.VII.1. The substitutes for aspects of the situation are the witnesses to your lack of faith. 2 **The substitutes for aspects of the situation** demonstrate that you did not believe the situation and the problem were in the same place. 3 The problem *<was>* the lack of faith, and it is this **lack of faith that** you demonstrate when you remove **aspects of the situation** from **the situation's** source and place **some aspects of the situation** elsewhere. 4 As a result, you do not see the problem. 5 Had you not lacked faith that **the problem** could be solved, the problem would be gone. 6 And the situation would have been meaningful to you, because the interference in the way of understanding, **which is your fragmenting and displacing parts of the situation from the whole**, would have been removed. p367 7 To remove the problem elsewhere is to keep **the problem**, for you remove yourself from **where the solution is** and, **thus**, make **the problem** unsolvable.

Note # 63: When we talk of removing some aspect of the problem and thus, fragmenting the problem, we are often talking about level confusion. An example of level confusion occurs when we identify ourselves as a body instead of the mind. If the body appears to be sick, it is because our mind is *<dis-eased>*. We are not in a state of ease or as it would more commonly be called, a state of peace. The mind that denies its own existence cannot be at peace with itself. Rather than correct the problem at the source, which is mind, we attribute the problem to the body and, therefore, treat the symptom, the pain in our foot, rather than the mind's belief that it is a body. All conflict is a result of our own self-doubt of what we are. It is our small "s" self 's desires that are out of alignment with our Big "S" Self. Conflict is the result of our denying that we are an "I AM" and, therefore, just "BEING". Instead, we have chosen to experience what it would be like to be the impossible, which is to not know ourselves. Now we are pretending to be the illusion of a "What AM I?" We have moved from being, into a thinking and judgment mode.

We take a pain pill to mask the pain in the foot, rather than deal with the cause of the problem. The problem is in the mind that believes it is not unlimited spirit. We have raised the body to the level of mind. They are not on the same level. The mind, not the body, is where the solution to the perceived situation lies. We can search all over in the world of illusionary form and we will never resolve the problem within our mind. They are on different levels. The ego's motto is "Seek, but do not find." By fragmenting, hiding and layering the error, the ego insures that the problem is never resolved. If we are to be healed, we must give all our misperception over to the Holy Spirit.

T-17.VII.2. There is no problem in any situation that faith will not solve. 2 There is no shift in any aspect of the problem but will make solution impossible, **for the problem must be solved in its entirety at the source and not fragmented.** 3 For if you shift part of the problem elsewhere the meaning of the problem must be lost, and the solution to the problem is inherent in **the problem's** meaning. 4 Is it not possible that all your problems have been solved, but you have removed yourself from the solution? 5 Yet faith must be where something has been done, and where you see **that something has been done.**

Note # 64: All of our problems have already been solved, for there are no problems truth does not resolve. Truth is God's Will. Being everything, what could we lack? The problem

is the fact that we have chosen to deny the truth and replace it with illusion. We have removed ourselves from the knowledge of Heaven and placed ourselves inside a dream of uncertainty. Egoic questioning has brought doubt into our mind and now we find ourselves in a “What Am I State?” Perception has replaced knowledge. We have made an illusionary world of provisional reality to be our game-board where we can play out the game of separation within our split-mind. The problem is not the dream, which is merely like going to a movie. The problem is that we have identified ourselves with the movie and, therefore, believe the movie is real. The world of perception is a world in which we pretend that we have a choice in what the truth can be. In the world of perception, we “make up” our own “truth” as we go along. Pretending that the truth can change results in an unstable world in which time has a function. The problem is our lack of faith in what is true. Truth is truth, and no fantasy can change truth. Truth just is.

We cannot find the solution to a fantasy within the dream itself. To replace one illusion with another illusion, only changes the form of the illusion. We have placed one false idea on top of another false idea. We have not found the truth, yet, we insist on hiding the truth under more and more layers of the false. By responding to each layer of the dream as if it has the power to affect our true reality, we have made the dream appear real. The solution to all illusionary problems is the reawakening to the truth. Only the truth will remove the false. We are the perfect Children of God. The thought system of the Holy Spirit is the voice for truth. We cannot listen exclusively to the Holy Spirit while we still value the egoic thought system. Truth and illusion do not mix. To maintain some parts of the ego’s thought system is to reject the thought system of the Holy Spirit. The mind cannot serve two masters. To attempt to do so will lead to our continued lack of faith in the power of truth over illusions. We will continue to be conflicted and confused.

T-17.VII.3. A situation is a relationship, being the joining of thoughts. 2 If problems are perceived, it is because the thoughts are judged to be in conflict. 3 But if the goal is truth, **to judge thoughts to be in conflict** is impossible. 4 Some idea of bodies must have entered, for minds cannot attack. 5 The thought of bodies is the sign of faithlessness, for bodies cannot solve anything. 6 It is **the bodies’** intrusion on the relationship, an error in your thoughts about the situation, which then becomes the justification for your lack of faith **in the truth of what you really are, the guiltless Son of God.** 7 You will make this error **of confusing the body with the mind**, but be not at all concerned with **this error of confusing the body with the mind.** 8 The error does not matter. 9 Faithlessness brought to faith will never interfere with truth. 10 But faithlessness used *<against>* truth will always destroy faith. 11 If you lack faith, ask that **faith** be restored where **faith** was lost, and seek not to have **faith** made up to you elsewhere, as if you had been unjustly deprived of **faith**.

Note # 65: Lifting the body up to the level of mind is accepting that you believe that you are a body. You have empowered and raised body thoughts to the level of the mind. By identifying yourself with a body, you are rejecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit’s thought system. You must maintain complete faith that the Holy Spirit will succeed in returning the split-minded back to the wholeness of truth. If we associate ourselves with a body, we are still under the illusion that we are the arbitrators of truth. Truth is truth! The belief that we can pick and choose between truth and illusion is an attack on truth. Such an attack can only destroy your faith in the truth. Truth is absolute. Truth is not negotiable. Perception was created by our belief that somehow we could negotiate and decide for ourselves what would be the truth. Only the insane believe they can make up what is true as

they go. Perception's projections have become our own private fantasy world in which we make up anything we wanted to and then believe that it is the "truth." Perception is the belief that we could choose when, where and what will be the "truth". This idea that what is true is a personal choice is the ravings of a mad man. Our ego tells us that there are varying degrees of truth; that truth is conditional and that you get to set the conditions for truth. Freewill allows us to deny the truth, but our denial cannot change the truth. This denial of the truth that you are the One Self is the denial of the Will of God.

T-17.VII.4. Only what <you> have not given can be lacking in any situation. 2 But remember this; the goal of holiness was set for your relationship **by God**, and not by you. 3 You did not set **the goal of holiness for your relationship** because holiness cannot be seen except through faith, and your relationship was not holy because your faith in your brother was so limited and little. 4 Your faith must grow to meet the goal **of holiness for your relationship** that has been set **by God**. 5 The goal's reality will call this **holiness** forth, for you will see that peace and faith will not come separately. 6 What situation can you be in without faith, and remain faithful to your brother?

Note # 66: God has established that the purpose of all relationships is "to make happy." A holy relationship will fulfill this purpose of happiness. We cannot "make happy" by refusing to acknowledge the truth about our brother or ourselves. If we lack faith that our brother is perfect, whole and complete, how can we make happy, when we deny the truth about our brother? We are joined at the "hip" since to give is to receive. Deny the Big "S" Self in our brother, and we deny the Christ in ourselves. Our lack of faith in our brother has destroyed our faith in the truth that we too are perfect, whole and complete. Together we are a jointed Oneness with our brother and our Creator. We are the One Self.

T-17.VII.5. Every situation in which you find yourself is but a means to meet the purpose set for your relationship. 2 See **the situation** as something else than **a means to meet the purpose set for your relationship** and you are faithless **to the truth**. 3 Use not your faithlessness. 4 Let **faithlessness** enter and look upon **faithlessness** calmly, but do not use **faithlessness**. 5 Faithlessness is the servant of illusion, and wholly faithful to its **egoic** master. 6 Use **faithlessness** and **faithlessness** will carry you straight to illusions. 7 Be tempted not by what **faithlessness and its illusions** offers you. p368 8 **Faithlessness and its illusions** interferes, not with the goal, but with the value of the goal to you. 9 Accept not the illusion of peace **that our faithlessness in the truth** offers, but look upon **faithlessness's** offering and recognize **that faithlessness's egoic offering of peace** <is> illusion.

Note # 67: The faithlessness in truth is faith in the ego's thought system. The ego believes that there is a substitute for God's Love. It is this egoic idol that is to be the substitute for the peace of God. This substitute can be found in the special relationship. The special relationship is merely a veil to confirm the ego's claim that we are a limited ego-body, not unlimited spirit. This egoic special relationship that claims to offer peace and love instead always ends in guilt and attack. This egoic special relationship makes the body appear real yet incomplete and very vulnerable. Our Big "S" Self, being the everything of the One Self, could never find happiness or peace in the body. Our Big "S" Self calls for the denial of all illusion and the acceptance of God's Will. Choose to accept the Atonement for yourself and reclaim your divine birthright.

T-17.VII.6. The goal of illusion is as closely tied to faithlessness as faith to truth. 2 If you lack faith in anyone to fulfill, and perfectly, his part in any situation dedicated in advance to truth, your dedication is divided. 3 And so you have been faithless to your brother, and used your faithlessness against **your brother**. 4 No relationship is holy unless **the relationship's** holiness goes with **the relationship** everywhere. 5 As holiness and faith go hand in hand, so must **the relationship's** faith go everywhere with **the relationship**. 6 The goal's reality will call forth and accomplish every miracle needed for **the relationship goal's** fulfillment. 7 Nothing too small or too enormous, too weak or too compelling, but will be gently turned to **the relationship's** use and purpose. 8 The universe will serve **the relationship goal** gladly, as **the relationship goal** serves the universe. 9 But do not interfere.

Note # 68: Follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Who cannot fail. "Failure" can only occur when we let the ego convince us that it has a better plan and, therefore, we reaffirm our allegiance to the ego. We "dump" the Holy Spirit's plan and go it alone by following the ego's plan. When we lack faith in our brother, we lack faith that the Holy Spirit knows the truth and how best to get us to home.

T-17.VII.7. The power set in you in whom the Holy Spirit's goal has been established is so far beyond your little conception of the infinite that you have no idea how great the strength that goes with you. 2 And you can use *<this power set in you by God, our Creator>*, in perfect safety. 3 Yet for all **this power's** might, so great **the power set in you by God that it** reaches past the stars and to the universe that lies beyond them, your little faithlessness can make **this power set in you by God** useless, if you would use the faithlessness instead.

Note # 69: We have the creative power of God within us. This is our birthright. However, we can deny that we possess this creative power. We can place our faith in the illusion of separation and lack and thus, render ourselves powerless to create like God. For what we choose to believe becomes our provisional reality. If we argue for our limitations, we get to keep them.

T-17.VII.8. Yet think on **your ability to deny the power of God within you** and learn the cause of faithlessness: You think you hold against your brother what **your brother** has done to you. 2 But what you really blame **your brother** for is what *<you>* did to *<your brother.>* 3 It is not **your brother's** past but **your past that** you hold against **your brother**. 4 And you lack faith in **your brother** because of what you were. 5 Yet you are as innocent of what you were as **your brother is innocent of what you were**. 6 What never was is causeless, and **what never was** is not there to interfere with truth. 7 There is no cause for faithlessness, but there *<is>* Cause for faith. 8 That Cause, **God**, has entered any situation that shares **That Cause's** purpose. 9 The light of truth shines from the center of the situation, and touches everyone to whom the situation's purpose calls. 10 **The light of truth that is the situation's purpose** calls to everyone. 11 There is no situation that does not involve your whole relationship, in every aspect and complete in every part. 12 You can leave nothing of yourself outside **the situation, which is a relationship**, and keep the situation holy. 13 For **the situation, which is a relationship**, shares the purpose of your

whole relationship, and derives **the situation's** meaning from **the purpose of the whole relationship**.

Note # 70: A situation is a relationship, being the joining of two thoughts. When problems are perceived, it is because two thoughts are believed to be in conflict with each other. Truth and illusion are always in conflict with each other. Anytime we judge, we are utilizing past misperceptions. The underlying belief about these judgments is that the Sonship is guilty. Our belief in the guilt of both our brother and ourselves is in conflict with the truth that we are, the Christ. Our brother could not harm unlimited spirit, the Christ, and unlimited spirit, the Christ, could not be guilty of anything. All beliefs in guilt are equally unreal in the Mind of God. Yet, we attempt to raise this illusion up to the level of truth. This cannot be done. Illusions always fade before the light of truth. When God willed that the purpose of relationships is "to make happy," the whole was made happy. Happiness is being the truth of what you are. We cannot deny our brother's happiness without denying ourselves the happiness that is our divine birthright. We are a joined Oneness. We are the Mind of God, not some puny body.
To make whole is to make holy.

T-17.VII.9. Enter each situation with the faith you give your brother, or you are faithless to your own relationship. 2 Your faith will call the others to share your purpose, as the same purpose called forth the faith in you. **Your purpose in all relationships is "to make happy". This is the purpose God gave relationships and to make happy is to know the truth.** 3 And you will see the means you once employed to lead you to illusions transformed to means for truth **by the Holy Spirit.** p369 4 Truth calls for faith, and faith makes room for truth. 5 When the Holy Spirit changed the purpose of your **egoic special relationship, which was to substitute illusion for truth,** by exchanging **your purpose for the Holy Spirit's purpose of relationships,** the goal **the Holy Spirit** placed there was extended to every situation in which you enter, or will ever enter. **The purpose or goal of every relationship, according to the Holy Spirit is to return the split-minded to the truth of the One Self.** 6 And every situation was thus made free of the past, which would have made **the situation** purposeless.

Note # 71: The present situation would be made purposeless if viewed from the past. If we view the present from past misperceptions, we have judged from a perspective of separation and lack and this can only make an illusion. Bringing the past into the present prevents us from being in the <now>, and, therefore, insures the present will be a re-enactment of the past. All past judgments must be suspended in order to allow, listen and have faith in the truth that the Holy Spirit speaks. The Holy Spirit knows God's Plan for salvation and will utilize whatever you offer the Holy Spirit to fulfill His function. If we control our fear and ask for guidance, the Holy Spirit will transform our relationships into holy ones. This will aid in reawakening God's sleeping Son to the truth.

T-17.VII.10. You call for faith because of **the Holy Spirit,** Who walks with you in every situation. 2 You are no longer wholly insane, nor no longer alone **because the Holy Spirit walks with you.** 3 For loneliness in God must be a dream. 4 You whose relationship shares the Holy Spirit's goal are set apart from loneliness because the truth has come. 5 **Truth's** call for faith is strong. 6 Use not your faithlessness against **truth,** for **truth** calls you to salvation and to peace.

Note #72: The Holy Spirit, just like the Christ, has always been with us. We have chosen not to listen to Their call. The Holy Spirit's thought system returns us to truth. The ego's thought system would lead us into deeper and deeper levels of victim consciousness and keep us trapped in illusion. The choice is between truth, and the ego's attempt to make illusions real. In egoic thought, "to make happy" means "to make guilt." Even the ego's "gift" of the special relationship is the gift that must ultimately lead to pain, suffering and death. The special relationship guarantees that we will always need something outside ourselves to be made whole. The truth of the Holy Spirit guarantees that we are that One Self, eternally perfect, whole and complete.

VIII. The Conditions of Peace

T-17.VIII.1. The holy instant is nothing more than a special case, or an extreme example, of what every situation is meant to be. 2 The meaning that the Holy Spirit's purpose has given **the holy instant** is also given to every situation. 3 **Every situation, like the holy instant**, calls forth just the same suspension of faithlessness, withheld and left unused, that faith might answer to the call of truth. 4 The holy instant is the shining example, the clear and unequivocal demonstration of the meaning of every relationship and every situation, seen as a whole. 5 Faith has accepted every aspect of the situation, and faithlessness has not forced any exclusion on **part of the whole**. 6 **The holy instant** is a situation of perfect peace, simply because you have let **the holy instant** be what **the holy instant** is.

Note # 73: The holy instant is the suspension of all judgments, which means it is also the suspension of the past. Without the past, there are no judgments to cloud the truth of the <now>. Under the Holy Spirit guidance, we can experience the <now> as guiltless. Only forgiveness and love is found in the present of the <now> for we realize that any previously perceived attack is only a cry for love. In the <now>, we respond appropriately with only love and forgiveness. Giving love and forgiveness is receiving love and forgiveness and thus, we are at peace. The holy instant can be found in every relationship that has been made holy by the recognition of the truth. The holy instant is the recognition that "I am not an individual, I am a Oneness." It is the resurrection of the truth about everything, and, therefore your salvation as the One Self. We are joined as one in the holographic Mind of God.

T-17.VIII.2. This simple courtesy is all the Holy Spirit asks of you. 2 Let truth be what it is. 3 Do not intrude upon **truth**, do not attack **truth**, do not interrupt **truth's** coming. 4 Let **truth** encompass every situation and bring you peace. 5 Not even faith is asked of you, for truth asks nothing. 6 Let **truth** enter, and **truth** will call forth and secure for you the faith you need for peace. 7 But rise you not against **truth**, for against your opposition **truth** cannot come.

Note # 74: Truth just is. For truth to be true, we literally need do nothing. No action is required on our part to "make" the truth become true. We are merely asked to stop denying the truth. We must freely choose the Holy Spirit's thought system over the ego's. The Holy Spirit will never impose Himself upon you until you freely ask. The Holy Spirit patiently waits for your request to restore to you your vision of Christ, which has always remained within you. Because you have free will, you can choose to deny the truth and pretend that you live within a dream of time and space. In your made-up world of provisional reality,

you can actually choose what you will allow to be the “truth” for you. You can even have the choice of making the false, true. Thus, you can cling to any illusion that you wish and the Holy Spirit will wait patiently until you are ready to choose again.

All “things” of the ego’s world are “echoes” of the Voice for God. They appear to be coming directly from God but they are merely illusions. These “echoes” claim that God needs to be feared. They claim that God’s Son has sinned and that we are guilty. Do not place your faith in the false witnesses for the ego. Their goal is to make illusions appear real. Hear the true Voice for God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows the truth. God’s Son is guiltless and sinless. The Voice of God speaks only the truth and calls out, “This is my beloved Son, perfect, whole and complete. In My Son, I am well pleased. My Son and I are One.” This is the one and only truth we need to know. This is the Unconditional Love of Our Creator for His Creation. This is God extending Himself to all Creation.

T-17.VIII.3. Would you not want to make a holy instant of every situation? 2 Forsuch is the gift of faith, freely given wherever faithlessness is laid aside, unused. 3 And then **wherever faithlessness is laid aside, unused**, the power of the Holy Spirit's purpose is free to be use instead. **The Holy Spirit's purpose is that the Son know the truth about Himself, that He, the Son of God, is the Christ.**4 This power instantly transforms all situations into one sure and continuous means for establishing **the Holy Spirit’s** purpose, and demonstrating **truth’s** reality. 5 What has been demonstrated has called for faith, and has been given **faith**. p370 6 Now **what has been demonstrated (the truth)**, becomes a fact, from which faith can no longer be withheld. 7 The strain of refusing faith to truth is enormous, and far greater than you realize. 8 But to answer truth with faith entails no strain at all.

Note # 75: We need only to have faith and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and the Holy Spirit will reinterpret all situations into correct perception. Correct perception mirrors the truth about yourself and your brother. The truth is that you and your brother are the Christ. That the Sonship is not a bunch of separate parts but only a Oneness. The Sonship and the Creator are the One Self. Herein lays the Peace of God.

T-17.VIII.4. To you who have acknowledged the Call of your Redeemer, **the Holy Spirit**, the strain of not responding to **the Holy Spirit’s** Call seems to be greater than before. 2 This **apparent increased strain for not responding to the Holy Spirit’s Call** is not so. 3 Before, the strain **for not responding to the Holy Spirit’s Call** was there, but you attributed **the call** to something else, believing that the "something else", **the ego**, produced **the call of your Redeemer**. 4 This was never true **that the ego produced any call of your Redeemer**. 5 For what the "something else" **that the ego** produced was sorrow and depression, sickness and pain, darkness and dim imaginings of terror, cold fantasies of fear and fiery dreams of hell. 6 And **the "something else" that the ego produced** was nothing but the intolerable strain of refusing to give faith to truth, and see **truth’s** evident reality.

Note # 76: The strain is the result of non-alignment between the small “s” self and the Big “S” Self’s purpose, goals, thoughts and actions. Both thought systems have their own plan for salvation. The plan for salvation calls for the restoration of God’s Son from his self-impose exile from God’s love. We currently feel lonely because we believe ourselves to no longer be whole. The ego’s plan for salvation is based in the idea of “seek and never find.”

The ego claims that there could be a substitute for the Creator's unconditional love. The ego is constantly promising that you will be happy when... Yet, when the goal is finally achieved; we discover the item did not bring us happiness. There is no salvation in the ego's special yet unholy relationship. These unholy special relationships testify that you are a weak, limited, sinful and guilty body. Such a limited ego-body can never become the oneness of love that we seek. Ultimately, the special relationship, like all the wages of sin, ends in our death. This is the ego's plan for our salvation.

The Holy Spirits thought system utilizes God's Plan. God's Plan is guaranteed to work since it rests on the power of God. God's Plan for relationships is "to make happy." It rests on the knowledge that we all share God's Will. The Holy Spirit succeeds in fulfilling His function by bringing the split-minded back to this truth. Once we experience the results of the peace that flows from each situation that we give to the Holy Spirit, we are more desirous of following exclusively the thought system of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's call becomes harder to resist because we know It results in our peace and happiness. Would we rather have the peace of God or the ego's plan that results in only pain and suffering? It becomes harder and harder for our decision-maker to cast our lot with the thought system that only brings the illusion of pain and separateness. The Holy Spirit's Plan speaks for the truth of the One Self. It proclaims, "I am not an individual, I am a oneness." Herein lies the peace of God

T-17.VIII.5. Such was the crucifixion of the Son of God. **In this self-imposed crucifixion, we crucified the Truth, our Oneness, in exchange for the loneliness of the illusion of separation from God's Love.** 2 **God's Son's** faithlessness did this to him. 3 Think carefully before you let yourself use faithlessness against him, **the Christ.** 4 For he, **the Christ** is risen, and you have accepted the Cause of his awakening as **your Cause.** 5 You have assumed your part in his redemption, and you are now fully responsible to him (**your brother, who represents the split-minded Sonship**). 6 Fail **your brother** not now, for it has been given you to realize what your lack of faith in **your brother** must mean to you. 7 **Your brother's** salvation is your only purpose. 8 See **only your purpose to be the salvation of your brother** in every situation, and **every situation** will be a means for bringing only **your brother's salvation.**

Note # 77: Every situation can become a holy instant that brings us back into the unity and truth of what we are. By granting forgiveness to our brother, we grant it to ourselves. Being freed from guilt, we can accept the truth about ourselves. By our asking, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the truth about the Christ that is the One Self.

T-17.VIII.6. When you accepted truth as the goal for your relationship, you became a giver of peace as surely as your Father gave peace to you. 2 For the goal of peace cannot be accepted apart from its conditions, **which is the acceptance of the truth, the Christ, that you are,** and you had faith in **the truth** for no one accepts what he does not believe is real. 3 Your purpose has not changed, and will not change, for you accepted what can never change, **which is the truth of what you are.** 4 And nothing that it needs to be forever changeless can you now withhold from **the truth of what you are.** 5 Your release is certain. 6 Give as you have received. 7 And demonstrate that you have risen far beyond any situation that could hold you back, and keep you separate from **God, the Father,** Whose Call, **the Holy Spirit's,** you answered. p371

Note # 78: To know yourself is to know God. We are only love. We do not currently know our Big “S” Self and, therefore, see ourselves as having needs based on limitation. The ego has made up a god for our deluded little “s” self. This “god” of the ego, is made in our ego’s image. The ego’s idols are limited, petty, revengeful and full of hate. This egoic “god” is not the true God of Love. It is a god of fear and hate. If we seek truth from the Holy Spirit, we will rediscover the true Big “S” Self. We are the Christ. Being Christ, we are unconditional love. Unconditional love is all we can be for we are an extension of our Creator. Being an extension of our Creator, we are like our Creator. We are the thoughts of God. The Father is Cause and we are His Effect. Together we are intertwined and complete the One Self. “I and the Father are One.” The acceptance of the truth about our brother’s guiltlessness has freed us to the truth of our own identity. We are that One Self. We are not an individual; we are the Oneness of God.