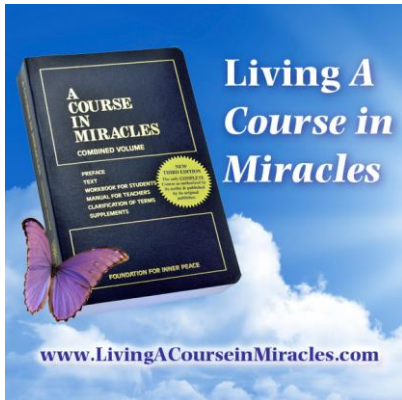


*August 22, 2017*



# Circle of Atonement



 *Jennifer Hadley*  
your daily shot of spiritual espresso

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August 22, 2017

## Circle of Atonement

Welcome to *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk* with Reverend Jennifer Hadley, a beloved teacher of the *Course*, who has helped thousands learn how to express their beliefs from moment to moment in their everyday lives. Get ready to focus on your intent to be the Love, be the Peace, through practical application.

Here is your host, Reverend Jennifer Hadley.

Jennifer      Bonjour! Bonjour! So happy to be with you on this beautiful, beautiful day! I am back in Maine, Deer Isle, Maine, where my family has a home and where many of us are gathered here, as we often do, at the end of August to enjoy each other, to cook a lot of good meals, and to have fun. Yesterday, we were watching the eclipse together and we really had a really good time. I'm grateful to share all this happy energy with you

Today, I have a guest. For the very first time, it's going to be, actually, my very first conversation with Robert Perry. Welcome, Robert!

Robert      Thank you! Great to be here!

Jennifer      Yeah! So, we're going to learn about Robert Perry and what he's up to. He's been a student of the *Course* for decades, and I'm very excited to have him as a guest with us today.

We're going to do, as we always do, we're going to begin with a prayer.

### *Opening Prayer*

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I invite everyone to take that breath. As you all know, I like to place my hand on my heart and remind myself that I am wholeheartedly here for Spirit, to be truly helpful.

So grateful to take this Breath of God, to open our hearts, to open our minds to the Higher Holy Spirit Self leading us and guiding us to our conversation. It's a Divine Dialogue. We're joined together in the Holy Spirit, in the Love.

We are grateful to dedicate our conversation to being inspired, to being uplifted, to remembering the truth that sets us free.

## ***A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show*** **with Jennifer Hadley**

We are grateful and thankful to lay on the altar everything that doesn't serve us, every false belief, every judgment, every complaint, every thought of separation.

We are grateful and thankful to open our hearts and minds to the Unity of all life. So grateful to remember we are One. So grateful to remember that we are loved, that we are perfect, already perfect.

So grateful! So grateful! We share the benefits with all Beings, because we're One with them. We share the benefits of our healing, nourishing, expansive conversation with everyone.

In gratitude, we allow the healing to be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Yeah!

### ***Robert's First Encounter with ACIM***

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Jennifer      Robert, what you may not know is that I've been doing this show every week for six years, almost. It'll be six years next month. It's a weekly broadcast, so we have over 300 episodes.

I've been *A Course in Miracles* student since 2006, and prior to that I was trained to be a Science of Mind Practitioner and minister. Once I completed all that nine years of training, I said, "Okay, great! Now, *A Course in Miracles*."

I just absolutely love *A Course in Miracles*. It's just my salvation in this world. I'm so grateful for it in so many ways, and my foundation of Science of Mind was **perfect** for me to bring in *A Course in Miracles*.

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***I just absolutely love A  
Course in Miracles.  
It's just my salvation in  
this world. - Jennifer***

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We get a lot of people who listen to the show who come from the Unity background, which is the New Thought background, and so we have a lot of people who come in who are unfamiliar with *A Course in Miracles*, but like I was 11 years ago, interested and eager to learn, eager to discover a greater understanding of the truth, the remembrance of the truth.

You have been doing this work with *A Course in Miracles* for 30 years, so I'm excited to learn from you, and to know more about your history and your background. You have just -- did you just personally publish this new

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version of *A Course in Miracles*, or is it, would you say, it's Circle of Atonement?

Robert Yeah. Circle of Atonement, which is the organization I founded and work for, we published it.

Jennifer Right. I'm sure that's a long time in the making. I know we **really** want to talk about a lot about that, but first, I wonder would you tell us how you came to *A Course in Miracles*?

Robert Sure! Yeah! Let's see. What happened was, I grew up in Protestant churches, Presbyterian and Lutheran, and when I hit my mid-teens, I got -- I just realized I didn't know **why** I believed the things that I supposedly believed, and I -- as many of us did, and I started to read around a lot in all kinds of areas that so many spiritual seekers have read in, you know, whether it's parapsychology, Law of Spirituality, mysticism, phenomenology of religion, all kinds of different things.

I became convinced, through that reading, that there really must be a spiritual reality. It seemed like whenever somebody had a glimpse of something beyond the physical, they seem to glimpse a fairly similar landscape and it was one that they didn't really tell me about in church.

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*I just realized I didn't  
know why I believed  
the things that I  
supposedly believed.*

*- Robert*

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert So, I gravitated -- I was very eclectic. I was into all kinds of teachings, but I gravitated fairly quickly towards the Edgar Cayce readings.

Jennifer Mmm!

Robert I related in the fact that this was channeled. I felt like there must be -- you know, he had some kind of pipeline to a higher realm. I liked the focus on Jesus. That was kind of my route and I felt the continuing sense of connection with the figure of Jesus.

So, my fiancée and I started an Edgar Cayce study group and we pulled in some close friends to join us in the group. At one of the meetings of the local study group leaders, somebody said -- I actually overheard somebody said, "Did you know that *Psychology Today*, the magazine, has done an article on the lady who wrote Jesus' *A Course in Miracles*?"

## *A Course in Miracles* Weekly Radio Show with Jennifer Hadley

I had no idea **what** that person was talking about. I assumed somebody had done a study of the order in which Jesus did the miracles in the Bible. You know? So, I read the article because it was there at the meeting, and I thought “This sounds like it’s right up my alley.” I was in college then, and I was basically too cheap to actually go out and buy the book, but my fiancée and a bunch of my friends got together and for my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday they bought me *A Course in Miracles*. That’s how I first got the *Course* and first got into it.

Although, I should say that it took me a bunch of years to decide it was my path. I was very eclectic. I was into the Cayce readings and other things. I felt like my whole foundation with the truth, it was kind of like light that was shining through all kinds of cracks in the wall.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert But eventually, it just became clear to me, through a lot of different means, that the *Course* **was** my path. I wasn’t particularly happy about that, but I felt like I hadn’t chosen it, it chose me.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert And so, once I decided that, the *Course* was it for me.

Jennifer Mm-hmm. Yeah, I think a lot of us feel that way, that it’s, in a certain way, it’s like meeting the Love of your life. [laughs] You just know you have that deep connection and you’d like to know more.

Robert Yeah. I didn’t really feel that right off, which we often don’t when we meet the Love of our lives, I guess.

Jennifer Yeah! [laughs]

Robert What happened was, it just -- I had issues with it, and I had gripes, but over, really, about seven years it kind of pulled me in further, and further, and further, until I **said** that I was an eclectic and followed all kinds of teachings, but in fact I was **just** doing the *Course*.

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*Eventually, it just became clear to me, through a lot of different means, that the Course was my path.*

*I wasn’t particularly happy about that, but I felt like I hadn’t chosen it, it chose me.*

*- Robert*

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## *A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show* with Jennifer Hadley

By this point, also, I had started teaching at Miracle Distribution Center in Southern California.

Jennifer Mmm!

Robert As I taught classes there, I kind of convinced myself. You know, when you stand up and have to advocate for something and deal with people's issues and such, I think you're not -- while you're trying to convince **them**, you're reinforcing whatever your own conviction is inside yourself.

Jennifer Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Robert That was a big factor for me.

### *The Circle of Atonement*

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Jennifer Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. How did Circle of Atonement come into being?

Robert Well, what happened was, I eventually moved to Arizona. I'm from Southern California, but I moved to Arizona in 1990, and I'd actually wanted a career, not in the whole spiritual thing, I wanted a career as a philosopher and assumed I would probably end up in academia somewhere. I'm basically a thinker, and that's how I got into the spiritual thing. I wasn't looking for Peace. I just became convinced, by evidence, that there's a spiritual reality.

What happened was, once I started teaching at Miracle Distribution Center, which was 1986, things just **happened**. I wrote a little booklet for them and I started getting invitations to go and speak in different places, one of the early ones up in Canada, and it just became clear to me that my career as a philosopher that I've been planning on for a long time was not what I was **supposed** to do.

Finally, after a long time of resisting what I think it was probably clearer than I thought, I realized, "Wait! This **is** my career!" And so, once I moved to Arizona, my wife and I started first just a kind of sole proprietorship, as they call it. It was just like my personal business for a couple of years, then

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*I wasn't looking  
for Peace.*

*I just became  
convinced,  
by evidence,  
that there's a  
spiritual reality.*

*- Robert*

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## ***A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show*** with Jennifer Hadley

in '93, we incorporated as a nonprofit under the heading of Circle of Atonement. And so, it just kind of happened incrementally.

Our vision was always that it would be -- it would try to meet a full spectrum of needs that *Course* students would have, both to understand the *Course*, to practice the *Course*, to extend the *Course* to other people. I always envisioned that as not just "my thing", you know, for me and as an outlet for my own contribution, but as a group endeavor.

And so, over the years, we've, through here and there, gathered in teachers really, from all over. Not a ton. We've been actually training teachers for several years now, but our vision has always been very much this would be of a group thing.

Jennifer That's beautiful. Yeah. I **love** working in community. I think it's **so** much easier and faster for us to awaken within a community, rather than the very tempting path of going out and living in a cave by yourself where there's nobody to irritate you but yourself. [laughs]

Robert Yeah. It's **easier**. It's a bit lonely, I'm sure.

Jennifer Well, I think it's easier in community, because you get so much support. I mean, it does -- it **appears** easier to go live in a cave, but people who do it don't seem to be that thrilled about it a lot of the time.

But *A Course in Miracles* tells us so clearly, as you well know, that it's our brothers and sisters that are our salvation. So, when we're in community together, we get to experience and practice, which is, of course, the only way that *A Course in Miracles* can really help us, is if we **apply** it assiduously, day after day.

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*Bringing these principles into active application in relationship, that is the fastest way to really grow up. -- Robert*

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Robert Yeah, yeah. Well, I actually completely agree with what you're saying. I think that there's something about being in relationship, and bringing these principles into active application **in** relationship, that is the fastest way to really grow up.

I think we often think about spiritual development as being about the maybe reaching higher states of consciousness, which I think it is.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

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Robert I think it's also about just becoming a more whole, mature, healed, loving human being, and I don't think we learn those things just through meditation, for instance.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert I've been -- I've lived with countless -- not countless, but a couple of dozen spiritual seekers over the years. I've lived in group houses a lot where you've often got five, six people living in the house and you have to deal with all that comes out of that, sharing a kitchen and all of that. It can be **extremely** challenging. It can be a little bit of a **mess**, sometimes a nightmare!

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert But there is something that comes out of it that basically pushes you along to be a more whole person than you were.

Jennifer Indeed! Indeed! Other people can be like sandpaper, helping us to smooth all those edges so that nothing can get caught on them, and when we can be grateful and thankful for every button they push and bring to our attention, then we're truly being masterful. It takes a great willingness to live that way. Fortunately, the more we do it, the easier it usually gets. Thank God for that!

Robert Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

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*Other people can be like sandpaper, helping us to smooth all those edges so that nothing can get caught on them. And when we can be grateful and thankful for every button they push and bring to our attention, then we're truly being masterful. -- Jennifer*

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### *Complete & Annotated Edition of A Course in Miracles*

Jennifer I know we're not going to take a break today. We're going to go straight through here so we have some extra time, and there are so many things for us to talk about. One of the biggest ones is that you have published this -- do you call it a new "version" of *A Course in Miracles*?

Robert Well, our formal title for it, or subtitle -- the title is *A Course in Miracles*, but the subtitle is *Complete and Annotated Edition*. "Complete" means that we've included, in one form or another, all the dictation that Helen Schucman took down from the Author, who says He's Jesus, and "annotated" refers to

## ***A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show*** with Jennifer Hadley

the fact that we have copious footnotes throughout the edition, which are really there to support the reader.

As you're reading the *Course*, there generally are kinds of questions that come up. "What does that sentence mean?" "Oh, isn't that a Bible reference where He referred to that earlier?" And so, where we felt that the reader had a need like that, we would put footnote to try to meet the need.

Jennifer Mmm!

### *Different Editions & Versions of ACIM*

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Robert We talk about it as the "New Edition", but formally, it's the *Complete and Annotated Edition*.

Jennifer What's the difference between that and the *Urtext*?

Robert Well, probably, to answer that probably I should step back just to explain what we did and a little bit of **why**.

Jennifer Oh, great.

Robert So, that -- this will take me a while but it's important to understand, because otherwise it's just you won't get the concepts.

What happened was, as you may know, first the *Course* was published in 1976, and back then -- I didn't get involved until '81, but you know, back in, say, the '80s, I know from personal experience, we didn't think of there being all kinds of extra things that Helen Schucman took down that were not in the *Course*.

But beginning in 1991, when Ken Wapnick released *Absence from Felicity*, his story of Helen Schucman and her scribing of the *Course*, it became clear that there **were** other things she took down. There were actually about 7,000 words in *Absence from Felicity* that Helen took down that were **not** in *A Course in Miracles*.

I was just riveted by that extra material. I thought it was **amazing!** I wore out my copy of *Absence from Felicity*, you know, reading and taking notes.

Then, what happened nine years later, is that people got a hold of a couple of the earlier versions in the process of editing the *Course*, before the final edit. Okay? So, early in the year 2000, somebody released on the internet what Helen and Bill had called the "Hugh Lynn Cayce version".

## *A Course in Miracles* Weekly Radio Show with Jennifer Hadley

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert Then later that year, somebody released on the internet what you just mentioned, the *Urtext*. Both of these were earlier versions of the *Course*, and both of them have substantially **more** material in them than the familiar Blue Book that we all owned.

And so, what happened was, I began to really study those earlier versions and compare them. It's especially interesting to compare them, like compare a across versions to look at a passage in the familiar FIP, *Foundation for Inner Peace* Edition, the one we all have and see what that passage looked like in the Hugh Lynn Cayce and see what that passage looked like in the *Urtext*.

I did a lot of that, and I came to the conclusion -- well, let me back up. The story that you should know, and maybe you do know, is that there was this whole process that the *Course* went through in **between** Helen taking down her notes and the familiar Blue Book being published.

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*There was this whole process that the Course went through in between Helen taking down her notes and the familiar Blue Book being published. - Robert*

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Jennifer Right.

Robert The process, very briefly, was that she would take down her handwritten notes. She'd hear the Voice and she'd write in a mixture of handwriting and shorthand symbols what she heard. Then she would dictate what she had written to her colleague, Bill Thetford, and he would type it up. His typed script is what they call the *Urtext*.

Jennifer Right.

Robert "*Urtext*" means "original text", but the **original** text was actually her handwritten notes, so the **Urtext** is already one version removed from the original notes. Okay?

Then **she** took the text of the *Urtext* and retyped that and edited as she went, and then she and Bill took that retyping, which Ken Wapnick called the "second draft", they took the second draft and edited **that** to produce what they called the "Hugh Lynn version", because they gave a copy to Hugh Lynn Cayce, who was the son of Edgar Cayce.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

## *A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show* with Jennifer Hadley

Robert And then, Helen and Ken Wapnick, who came on the scene later, took the Hugh Lynn version and edited **that** to produce this First Edition of the *Course* that was published.

### *Robert's Explanation of A Course in Miracles Edits*

What happened was, along the way, editing was going on all along the way, most especially in the early chapters of the *Text*, but also, to some degree, throughout the *Course*.

And so, what happened was, things were -- you know, sentences were being changed in their wording, either a little bit or a lot, **and chunks** of material were being taken out. And so, there's about 10,000 words in Helen's original shorthand notes that did not get dictated into the *Urtext*, and there's about, oh, I don't know, there's about 15,000 words -- no, I think about 23,000 words that were in the *Urtext* and did not make it in the Hugh Lynn version. Then there was additional about 12,000 words that were in Hugh Lynn version that did not make it into the Foundation for Inner Peace, First Edition, the one that was published.

So, overall, about 45,000 words dropped out along the way, in between the original notes and the First Edition of the *Course*. And then, In addition to that, there was also just a lot of changes of wording within sentences that stayed in, but the sentences, so that -- for instance, in the first four chapters of the *Text*, only about 21% of the sentences that are in the Blue Book retain their original wording. Those sentences had come from Helen's notes originally, but along the way some of the wording in 4/5, four of every five sentences, got changed. Only in the first chapters, but it does give you a sense of how much took place. Yeah, go ahead.

Jennifer Right. My understanding, though, is that those changes were all directed by Jesus, all the ones that Helen made.

Robert Right. That is a **great** idea and I'd love to believe the idea, but I just don't find it believable anymore, for all kinds of reasons.

One is, I don't think that claim was ever made. Ken Wapnick's -- of course, he was there editing the final version **with** her. **His** only claim was that she **knew** what changes to make and occasionally, rarely, she would explicitly ask. She supposedly **knew** what changes to make.

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But if you look, if you actually set the versions next to each other and look across them, put them side-by-side, the editing looks **very human**, very imperfect. There are lots of mistakes. There are tons of changes in meaning. There are sometimes explicit instructions for editing that got ignored, instructions from the Author.

There are just -- it's just -- I've had my nose in the editing for years and years now, it just looked like a very fallible, imperfect, well intentioned, good faith human effort, such that there's editing on top of editing.

If it was guided, I don't know why it wouldn't have just been guided at all at once. Why change the sentence and then change it again, and then change it again, or shorten this section, take out material, the shorten again, then shorten it again?

From what **I** can see, it looks like Helen was just motivated by some very, kind of understandable, personal motives. If you look at the material that gets taken out -- and again, it's mostly in the early parts of the *Text* but to some degree throughout -- it consistently is material that refers to something concrete in the world. And there **was** no instruction to take out everything that is a concrete reference, you know, references to voting machines, and to the Inquisition, and to Jeanne Dixon, the astrologer. There are all kinds of references to specific things in the world -- Freud, Edgar Cayce, reincarnation, karma, Shakespeare, *Don Quixote*.

Once you get used to her editing patterns -- and I think Helen **was** the main editor throughout. I don't think it was Ken Wapnick. He came on after most of the editing was done. She was the only one involved in all the different processes --if you get use to her editing patterns, even if you don't remember how a certain section ended up looking in the FIP, if you come across the original version of it, you will know what she'll take out.

For instance, there's a passage in Chapter 12 in the *Text*, where He says something like, "*The analysis of the ego's 'real' motivation is the modern equivalent of the Inquisition.*" Great line!

Jennifer [laughs] Yeah.

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Robert Right? When you're trying to analyze someone's real motivation, where their ego is really coming from, basically that's like the Inquisition.

But, the Inquisition was a thing that **happened** in history, and if you know her editing enough, you'll know that any references to something like that they're going to come out, and that one came out.

From my standpoint, I just don't see any reason to think that it was all perfectly guided. I see **every** reason to think it was a well-intentioned, good faith, but fallible, human effort.

### *Applying the Course to Our Lives*

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And so, as I started looking across the versions, this was about 15 years ago, I just became convinced there was **so much great** clarifying material that came out and there were so many passages that got kind of garbled in the editing, so that I scratched my head over them for **years**. Finally, I read their original wording and I thought, "Oh! **That's** what it means!"

There were paragraphs where I had just tried, and tried, and tried to figure out what it meant, without success, really. So, I just became convinced that the situation, it **had** to be rectified.

One of the things that really affected me, personally, was in that original dictation there were a lot of references to Helen and Bill's lives and to how they should be **applying**, or how they **had applied**, in some cases, the *Course's* teachings. And so, you know, as *Course*

students we're always wondering, "Well, how do I **live** this? How do I apply this?"

Here we have the Author giving **very clear** commentary on how it should be applied or successfully **was** applied in Helen and Bill's lives. **That** material, it changed my relationship with the *Course*. It gave me a much clear idea of how the Author wanted us to apply the material. You know, removed all that guess work. I just thought --

Jennifer Can you -- can you --?

Robert Yeah. Go ahead.

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*As Course students  
we're always  
wondering,  
"Well, how do I live  
this? How do I apply  
this?" -- Robert*

---

## ***A Course in Miracles* Weekly Radio Show** with Jennifer Hadley

- Jennifer Well, can you give us an example of that?
- Robert Oh, yeah! There's tons of them!
- Jennifer Yeah, great!
- Robert For instance, early in the dictation, in the equivalent what's Chapter 1, He's still giving the miracle principles, which were originally much longer. They were interwoven throughout about 20,000 words of the equivalent of Chapter 1.
- Then the editing took those principles, pulled them all together and put them in their own section at the beginning of Chapter 1, and then Chapter 1 itself was cut down from about 20,000 words to about 5,000 words.
- So anyway, the whole process of the "Miracle Principles" was dictated over a much **longer** series of pages.
- Did you want to ask me something? Sorry.
- Jennifer Well, I was just still waiting for you to say how did it -- you apply it to your life. Yeah.
- Robert Yeah, I'm getting there. Sorry. That was long preamble.
- Jennifer Yeah! No worries!

### *Jesus Reveals a Miracle of Helen Schucman*

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- Robert In dictating what are the "Miracle Principles", the principle was that -- I think it was 24 in our Edition,
- "Miracles are part of an interlocking chain of forgiveness."*
- And so, after dictating that principle, that "*Miracles are part of an interlocking chain of forgiveness*", He, the Author, who I think really **is** Jesus, said --
- Jennifer Yeah.
- Robert "*A great example of this is when --*" and He referenced a story from Helen's life that happened before she started scribing the *Course*.
- Jennifer Mm-hmm.
- Robert The story went like this: she had a deep love for an organization called the Shield Institute for Retarded Children and she was involved in this organization. Working with developmentally or intellectually disabled

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children, it was her specialty professionally, so she loved the organization, wanted to see it succeed.

A friend of hers, or at least a colleague named Esther, wrote a report about that organization that she called “the Shield” for short, that was meant to secure funding from the National Institutes of Health. Apparently, the report was very shoddily done, and which meant it jeopardized securing the funding.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert And so, what Helen did was, she went and rewrote the report in Esther’s name so that it became -- it went from a very bad report to a very good report, and it **did** end up succeeding in getting the funding.

What Jesus said was that by doing that, Helen had sort of reproduced that interlocking chain that He was talking about, in which -- well, first of all, **she** helped the organization and helped the children, thereby who the organization was there to help, but she also helped Esther because Esther, she had **done** this thing that would’ve very likely had negative consequences, and Helen swooped in and saved Esther from that by redoing the report.

Jesus said that Esther also -- I mean, Helen also had undone her **own** past acts of “lovelessness”, apparently, in past lives is how it’s sounded. By helping the children **now**, she undid times in the past when she had hated and hurt the children.

Jennifer Mmm!

Robert So this one thing she did, He said, did a miracle for everyone.

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert What’s interesting is, He said she **did** it, she rewrote the report, **resentfully** --

Jennifer Mmm!

Robert --because she felt that Esther had put her in a very unfair position. He said, “If you’d known all the people that would’ve helped, you would’ve done it with great Joy.”

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

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Robert            “But,” He said, “even though she did it with resentment, it was **still** a miracle because of all the people, Helen included, who were helped by what she did.”

Jennifer           Mm-hmm.

Robert            And so, we might look at that same instance and think all kinds of things as *Course* students. “Well, Helen came in and rewrote the report. Maybe she was putting too much -- she was taking form too seriously. Maybe she was meddling where she wasn’t supposed to be. Maybe she was being codependent. You know, she did it resentfully, so obviously, she’s spreading hate in the world.”

We could’ve said all kinds of things about Helen rewriting that report, but Jesus, Himself, called it a miracle about four or five times and listed it as an example of one of His Miracle Principles, so it tells us a lot about how **He** saw miracles.

### *Internalizing the Teachings of ACIM*

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Jennifer           Mm-hmm! Yeah! And so, how has that awareness really changed your life?

Robert            Well, in a lot of ways. I’ve been dealing with this material, now for -- we took a lot of years to actually **produce** this Edition.

Jennifer           I can only imagine!

Robert            Yeah. We had to transcribe all of her handwritten notes, which was not an easy thing.

Jennifer           Sure.

Robert            Her notes [unintelligible] and then edit from scratch, trying to honor the editing instructions that Jesus, Himself, gave to Helen and Bill, while trying to preserve it with much material as possible.

It was a very long process, and I had the opportunity then to really have lots of contact with this holy material, and it’s had a huge influence on both my understanding of the *Course* **and** my practice of the *Course*, because what I’d realized is He was a **lot** more focused on what we **do** during the day. Yes, we’re supposed to understand the *Course*’s teachings, and, yes we’re supposed to be practicing internally, like the *Workbook* teaches us.

## *A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show* with Jennifer Hadley

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert But all of that is meant to provide a foundation whereby we are active miracle workers in the world --

Jennifer Mm-hmm.

Robert -- where we ask for guidance frequently throughout the day, about how to express Love to others, and where we are really on top of our interactions, both our interior **reactions** to people and what we express to them behaviorally, because our role, according to this holy material, is to express Love to them and thereby have a healing effect on them, and that's **mainly** what He called **miracles**, expressions of Love that heal others.

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*Whatever work you  
do internally,  
the point of it is  
how it shows up  
in your actual  
daily interactions.  
-- Robert*

---

And so, it's really pulled me into being much more focused. I'm a very intellectual person. I **like** spending time in my head. I **like** it there. This has pulled me much more into realizing, "Okay, well, whatever work you do internally, the point of it is how it shows up in your actual daily interactions. **Are you** a more loving person? **Are you** trying to connect with Guidance, to express Love in the most helpful way? **Or** are you somewhere else while the people in front of you are in need?"

### *Being a Loving Presence is Fundamental*

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Jennifer Right. What do you think are some -- what are some of the -- or what is the **most** fundamental, basic practice for us, moment-to-moment?

Robert Well, I'm a big fan of the *Workbook* myself, and the *Workbook* tries **really** hard to teach us a discipline that we are basically enclosing every day in. You know, we start the day with them, we're in quiet time and we start the day with some *Course* study, and then we're carrying a thought from the *Course*, like the *Workbook* gives us, of course, a new thought to practice each day and we carry that into the day. We renew it on the hour, we repeat it **during** the hour, we repeat it to dispel our upsets when we lose our Peace.

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For me, I pick a new thought each day. I'm not doing the *Workbook* formally right now. I will be doing it again next year, actually, but right now I pick a line based on my path reading and then I just carry that practice, the practice of that line into my day, so I try to spend time with that on the hour. I repeat it briefly throughout the hour. I repeat it when I lose my Peace, which happens in small ways all the time.

Jennifer [laughs]

Robert And so, that's been a huge part of my life for a lot of years, but now I appreciate more fully that **that** is not just meant to deliver **me** Peace. That's meant to give me a foundation on which I can go out and **be** a loving presence in my interactions.

---

*That is not just  
meant to deliver  
me Peace.*

Jennifer Hmm! What is the practice --? Yes, the *Workbook*, yes, taking these thoughts from Jesus and contemplating them, but what would you say is the **one** thing that is going to bring the biggest benefit for *A Course in Miracles* student to practice, specifically?

*That's meant to give  
me a foundation on  
which I can go out  
and be a loving  
presence in  
my interactions. --  
Robert*

Robert Like a specific **idea**?

Jennifer Well, I wouldn't call it an **idea**. I would call it more of a spiritual practice.

Robert Yeah. Well, you know, I'm a big believer that the *Course* **is** a **whole** path, and so my own orientation is there are all kinds of elements that are trying to work together, and if the *Course* **is** our path, and I don't think it is for everybody -- I mean, everyone's got something.

Jennifer Yeah.

Robert If the *Course* **is** our path, my belief is we're supposed to try to get all the different elements of this mix to be, you know, to sort of -- if we're going to bake the cake, we've got to have all the ingredients in the cake. And so, I'm a big believer in daily study of the Book, a big believer in daily practice. And when the *Course* says "practice", which it does a lot of times, like 200-and-some times, it's referring to the **internal** practice of the *Workbook* that teaches us.

Jennifer Right.

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Robert When I hear the word “practice” -- I mean, it’s a very elastic word. You could mean all kinds of things by “practice” and many of them really good things that the *Course* doesn’t quite mean by that word, but when I hear the word, based on my familiarity of it in the *Course*, I hear that internal discipline that the *Workbook* is trying to teach us.

I’m also a big believer in the extension part of it, which I’m talking about under the heading of miracles and expressing Love, because the *Course* says that as we **give** these things away to other people, in the form of expressing Love, we reinforce in **ourselves**.

I, personally, feel like the key is to try to get all the ingredients of the cake in there.

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*When I hear the word  
“practice” ... I hear  
that internal discipline  
that the Workbook is  
trying to teach us. --  
Robert*

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### *Understanding Forgiveness is the Key Ingredient*

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Jennifer Got it! What would you say is **the key** ingredient, if there was one?

Robert [laughs] Well, the *Course* -- the ingredient that it seems to emphasize the most is forgiveness, which it has its own unique teaching about. It’s not forgiveness, as I’m sure you know, as we conventionally hear about in our culture.

But I also think it’s important to realize that the forgiveness it wants us to practice, it partakes of us those different elements I just mentioned. To really practice it, we have to **understand** what the concept is and that comes through, truly, to study the *Text*.

Jennifer Yeah.

Robert Then we also have to be practicing it **internally**, because our minds are -- we’re **not** geared towards forgiveness. We’re geared towards judgment and holding resentment, and being angry, and getting people back.

And also, forgiveness in the *Course* partakes of that active extension of others, because it’s not just -- if you look at what the *Course* means by the word “forgiveness,” it’s not just I’m releasing my -- I’m feeling different in **myself**, it’s also actively relieving guilt in my brother.

Jennifer Oh, yeah!

## *A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show* with Jennifer Hadley

- Robert I'm letting him, in a sense, feel off the hook so that he doesn't **feel** guilty anymore, and so forgiveness is kind of one thing but it partakes of the entirety of the *Course*, really.
- Jennifer Yes! Yeah, my simple description of forgiveness is the practice of nonjudgment.
- Robert Yeah. Yeah. **But** that's a great simple thing, but how is it that we **can** and even **should** refrain from judgment? And so, for me, it's a key for me to understand all the *Course's* theory about that, because **then**, suddenly, it makes sense of, "**Oh! That's** why it **doesn't** make sense to judge my brother. That's why it makes sense to forgive him, instead."
- Jennifer Mmm!
- Robert But, yeah, nonjudgment, that's the heart of it.
- Jennifer Yeah. I just find that if I don't judge in the first place, there's no forgiveness **required**.
- Robert Yeah. I love that line in a *Course* where He says --
- Jennifer It's easier! [laughs]
- Robert Yeah. Well, that's, of course, a big teaching in the *Course*, to overlook --
- Jennifer Yes!
- Robert -- what we would think of as sin from the start.
- Jennifer Mm-hmm. Yeah. Exactly.
- Well, we're actually — whoa! The time! I'm looking at the clock. We do have a little more time here, but --
- Robert Oh, my gosh! [laughs]

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*I just find that if I  
don't judge in  
the first place,  
there's no  
forgiveness  
required. -- Jennifer*

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### *"Someone's Got to Do This!"*

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- Jennifer [laughs] I know! I know! It goes by so fast when you're having good time. I know you would like to tell us some more about this new offering that you're bringing out and you've got some special offers. I also would like to ask you a question about, are there other versions that have Helen Schucman's name on it? You put Helen's name on this. I'm just -- I'm curious about that.

## *A Course in Miracles* Weekly Radio Show with Jennifer Hadley

- Robert           Helen's name on the cover? Well, there is -- let's see, I've got her version of the *Urtext* here. I don't see Helen's name on the cover. Helen's name is **inside** all the versions now. I mean, when I first got the *Course* back in '81, Helen and Bill weren't on this, in the Preface. You couldn't even read their names.
- But, of course, they're in the FIP Preface now, as if they --
- Jennifer          Mm-hmm.
- Robert           -- you know, neither one is on the cover of the book, but yeah, we just wanted people to know, in a very short space, what the keynote of our Edition was, and that's what we have on the cover, "Based on the original handwritten notes of Helen Schucman" so people know we've gone **back** to her original notes and edited from there.
- Jennifer          Mm-hmm. Great! How long is this version been out?
- Robert           It was first released in January of this year.
- Jennifer          Mm-hmm. Yeah. And how many years did you labor on this, Robert?
- Robert           Well, I think we were about eight years or so in high gear. I started working on it --yeah, we eventually had a team working on it. I was the main editor. My colleague, Greg Mackie, was the assistant editor. Then, in addition to the two of us, we had about 40-some people doing different things to help because it was such a huge task.
- But I started by myself trying to produce early drafts of Chapter 1 and 2 back in, I guess, 2004. So between 8 and 13 years, depending upon how you figure it, but it was a lot of time.
- Jennifer          What a labor of Love!
- Robert           It just felt so important that it get done, and when we were first -- for **years**, I wasn't thinking this is going to be some defining project for my organization and myself. I just thought it had to be done.
- Jennifer          Right.
- Robert           Over time, it kind of sank in, "Wait! This is actually a big deal!" But it took years for that to sink in. We just started out thinking, "Someone's got to do this."
- Jennifer          [laughs]

## **A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show** with Jennifer Hadley

### *Special Offering From Circle of Atonement*

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Robert            That -- real quickly about that offering you mentioned, we've gone through our first printing. We've got a second printing we've done and we're doing kind of a more formal book launch than we did in January.

What we're doing is offering, for a certain time, that if you buy the book, and specifically buying it on Amazon.com, then you get certain bonus materials with it, and the bonus materials involve three approximately one-hour videos, that cover the teaching of the *Course*, that cover the program of the *Course*, how the *Course* leads us through internalizing His teaching, and then the last one covers **why** we made this edition and how we did it. Those are videos and some support materials for each video.

You can take advantage of this if you go to -- I'll give you the URL, but it's kind of long, sorry to say. I'll give it to you slowly. It's [www.ACIM.CircleofA.org](http://www.ACIM.CircleofA.org) -- that's short for Circle of Atonement -- .org/bonus. [ACIM.CircleofA.org](http://ACIM.CircleofA.org). That's the website for this new edition, and you can find out all kinds of things about it there, if you'd like, see some sample materials and such. Then /bonus added on to that gets you to this bonus page where you can buy the book and then pick up the bonus materials for free.

Jennifer            Beautiful! **Beautiful!** Well, for those who didn't quite catch that, can they go to [CircleofA.org](http://CircleofA.org)?

Robert            They can go there and get to this page from there, but this is a different site which starts with [ACIM.CircleofA.org](http://ACIM.CircleofA.org).

Jennifer            Got it!

Robert            It's on a different site but there are links from our main site to this site.

Jennifer            Wonderful! Also, you have a lot of resources at [CircleofA.org](http://CircleofA.org), as well.

Robert            Oh, we've got tons! Yeah, we have, I think, over a thousand articles and commentaries that we have written over about 25 years.

Jennifer            Mm-hmm. One thing you can know, too, Robert, is that we transcribe these radio shows, and people can go to my website [LivingACourseinMiracles.com](http://LivingACourseinMiracles.com) and go to the [radio show page](#), and then they can download the transcript. It won't be available immediately, but it'll probably be there in a week or two weeks' time.

Robert            That's great!

## ***A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show*** **with Jennifer Hadley**

Jennifer      So if people would like to, yeah, go back over what you said, we -- one of the things we do is we transcribe all these radio shows so that those who are hearing impaired have an opportunity to have that full access to the material. Plus, we have people in many, many, many countries around the world who listen to the radio show so for them, sometimes English is their second language so we also provide the transcript so that they can clearly listen and gather all that's offered in the broadcast.

Everybody can know that you'll be able to read again, if you like, what Robert has shared with us.

Gosh! I feel like we just scratched the surface here.

Robert      Yeah! It went by rather quickly.

### ***Upcoming Classes & Retreats***

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Jennifer      It does! It does! I am going to start wrapping us up here and I do have a few announcements to make, so just bear with me here, Robert.

One of the things that I wanted to let everyone know is, as we're coming to the close of August, we have next month, we're going to be offering another [Living A Course in Miracles Class series](#). I haven't announced the theme yet, but I'll be announcing that probably early September. Folks can go and register for that free series of classes.

We've been doing those for -- this will be the 13<sup>th</sup> one we've done. We've been doing them since early 2011. These free series of classes are just a wonderful opportunity for us to focus in on *A Course in Miracles* in a particular theme or topic as I get the guidance to do. We'll be sharing that in just a couple of weeks' time.

In October, there's some events that are coming up. We have the *Weekend of Freedom* Retreat in North Carolina at the Art of Living Retreat Center, which is such a beautiful place in Boone, North Carolina up in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It'll be coming to Fall foliage-turning time.

There's a wonderful group of *A Course in Miracles* folks who are gathering, including David Fishman, Regina Dawn Akers, Jon Mundy, myself and others, so we're going to have a spiritual hootenanny that weekend! There's music. It's really going to be lovely.

## ***A Course in Miracles Weekly Radio Show*** **with Jennifer Hadley**

I love this facility, and that's why I'm doing two more events there in October. I'm going to be there for a few weeks. In the second weekend of October, I'm doing my [\*Forgive and Be Free\*](#) retreat. It's a long retreat weekend. We do a lot of deep work. If you'd like to read about that at [JenniferHadley.com](http://JenniferHadley.com) on the [Events](#) page, that's the second weekend in October.

I even recently collected some testimonials from folks who took it last year, so you could see how they're feeling 9-10 months later, because one of the things that we sometimes experience as we go on weekend retreats, it seems to go in one ear and out the other. And I really make a big effort that people will have **lasting** healing work.

Speaking of forgiveness, we're going to be really doing deep lasting forgiveness work. Forgiveness work is something a lot of us put to the backburner because it feels unpleasant, and what I love about the work we do in a group is we make it fun. There's a lot of laughter. Yes! There are often tears, and sometimes it can feel intense, but I have found that when we can do it in a super loving group, a small group setting, that it feels safe and intimate and we can remember to laugh at last and get over it! Forgive and be free!

Then that will take us right immediately into [\*my Spiritual Counseling Training Intensive\*](#). I've been training [Spiritual Counselors](#) for a few years now, and that's one of my guidances is to support people in having a career being truly helpful.

For those who are guided, it's a wonderful opportunity to -- the number one thing that we do in these events is to let go of the past and all the sense of unworthiness. It's very difficult to be a good Spiritual Counselor, healer, life coach, and even parent or grandparent, any kind of business, very, very difficult to do it if you do not feel **worthy**.

Of course, that's one of the main things in the *Course* is our deep sense of unworthiness and guilt, same thing often. You know, they work together, that guilt and unworthiness, so we spend quite a bit in the week-long [\*Intensive\*](#) clearing that sense of unworthiness. That's why many people come just for their own personal healing.

As always, I say if these events are right for you at this time, you will intuitively know that and to trust that. We all have manners of payment plans to help you with that.

## ***A Course in Miracles* Weekly Radio Show** with **Jennifer Hadley**

### *Closing Prayer*

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I'm going to say a quick prayer here and close us out.

So grateful, so thankful for Robert Perry and his precious life and his labors of Love.

So grateful and thankful that each one of us can turn to the Holy Spirit in each and every moment, so we Partner UP with the Higher Holy Spirit Self leading us and guiding us throughout every moment so that we **choose** Love, we **choose** nonjudgment. **No** forgiveness is needed.

We are grateful and thankful to open our hearts and minds to the truth, and to share the benefits with all Beings, because we are One with them.

In gratitude, we let it be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.

God bless you, Robert! Thank you so much!

Robert      Thank you so much for having me! Thank you!

Jennifer     God bless you, everybody! Mwah!