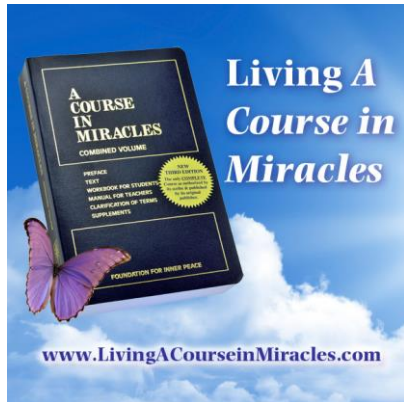


September 4, 2018



When Your Family Isn't Spiritual



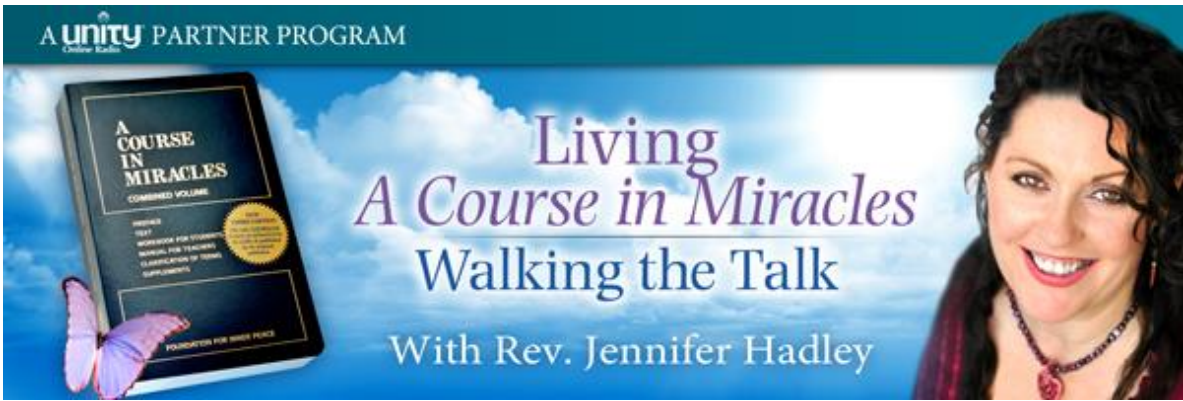
 *Jennifer Hadley*
your daily shot of spiritual espresso

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September 4, 2018

When Your Family Isn't Spiritual

Welcome to *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk* with Reverend Jennifer Hadley. 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 grateful to join with you today! I'm still up in Maine, which is lovely! It's so, so nice here to be on Deer Isle, and it's a beautiful end-of-summer day that's unfolding.

I am grateful to share. Our topic today is a great one! I took some requests that people had, and I merged them into the topic which is *When Your Family Isn't Spiritual*.

I'm just going to mention, before I go into the prayer, about if you would like to submit a topic, go to LivingACourseInMiracles.com/radio. First of all, you can search the archive there, and the transcripts, that's where you get them if you'd like to download them. We're at 359 shows as of today, so there's a lot of searching you can do there. Search for the key words that are of interest to you.

But, there is a form on the page there, on the side, where you can fill out and request a topic. You also can always e-mail Admin@JenniferHadley.com with your suggestions for a show topic.

I'm **loving** taking your suggestions, so please offer one if you've found that I haven't already done a show on it. Alright! If you can't find the show I've already done, we can help you find it! Yay! We're here to help!

Our topic today, *When Your Family Isn't Spiritual*. Let's begin with a prayer.

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Opening Prayer

So grateful, so thankful, to open our hearts and our minds to the power and the presence of Love. So grateful and so thankful to open ourselves to unprecedented Wisdom, pure Joy, Harmony, Wisdom, Clarity, the All-Good of God shining in our awareness.

So grateful that we **can** Partner UP with the Higher Holy Spirit Self in a deep and abiding gratitude and welcome our Wholeness and our holiness.

We are truly grateful and truly thankful that our healing is shared with everyone, because we're One with them.

So grateful and thankful to **let it be**. We let it be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Respecting Differences in Family

Mmm! Indeed! So grateful!

First, I'm going to share that my family is not what I think of as "spiritual". My parents-- well, the whole time I was growing up, they never went to church, except when we visited my grandparents, and all my grandparents but one was Protestant, and one was Catholic, and they were all extremely devout churchgoers. They liked going to church. They were involved in their churches. Four grandparents, three churches, and they volunteered, they gave service, they tithed, they did all of that.

In fact, my grandfather is the one who taught me the importance and value of tithing and he did it so simply. He said, "The money you give the church costs you nothing." My grandfather was very poor growing up. He made his own way in the world, and he had a sixth-grade education. At a very young age he was out working to earn a living and send money back home to his mother and sisters and was ultimately very successful.

He was a salesman. He started off door-to-door sales, working for the Hoover Company selling vacuum cleaners. How cool is that? Ultimately, he went into business with his brother-in-law, and they had the Cains potato chip factory. That Cains chip/snack business was pretty big in the Midwest when I was a kid, and I got to eat fresh cooked potato chips, which were unbelievably delicious! Anyway, I digress.

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My family wasn't spiritual, but they were religious. My grandparents, they read the Bible every day, and over the course of my father's parents' marriage, they went through and read the entire Bible, the King James, a few times. Amazing! They would just read a couple of chapters a day, something like that.

I really observed my grandparents and how much God meant to them. It was, for them, very, very tied to being an active member of the community, and so through the church they would learn of people who were in the hospital, and they would send flowers. They would take food to people who couldn't get out to get food. They would get these weekly announcements at church, and then my grandfather would take action purchasing things, delivering them, dropping them off, checking in on people, making sure people had what they needed. That was just what you did for your community.

That, to me--and my parents did some of that. Although they weren't involved in church, they were very civic-minded socially, politically involved, and they were activists as young people in the 60s. They were in their 20s in the 60s, and I was a little baby.

And so, I watched and observed all these things. But they were never spiritual, and my parents were not religious at all. Then, late in their life, when they moved to where I am now, Deer Isle, Maine, they started to attend church, because it was a more social activity and less religious in this community, the church that they went to, which was the church that I had gotten involved in here. It's interesting how those things go.

My sister-in-law is Catholic, and when she started having children, she started going back to church, taking them to church, and got very involved in her church, and appears to be a devout Catholic. We don't talk about it a whole lot.

But, what I can say--because I know the topic really came up because people feel **disrespected** in their family, and I have felt that. That my interest in my spirituality, people were not, in my family, interested in it, did not wish to share my interest, or talk about it.

Whereas, if I were interested in hunting or gardening and things like that, they would definitely have more interest in the conversations. If I were interested in pottery, or sculpting from clay or something, they would be more interested than they are in what I am doing.

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Very rare for people in my family to ask me about my work-- how it's going, things like that. There's just--they do not wish to start a conversation about it.

It would be different if I were in the shoe business, and I understand that, because they could ask me all kinds of questions about shoemaking if I were in the shoe business. Let's say I was making boots-- they could ask me about boots, and we could talk about boots, and there would not be any **threat--** that they could buy whatever boots they wanted, and they wouldn't feel bad about their boots, probably.

If I made cigars, and they didn't smoke cigars, I don't think they'd feel badly that they didn't smoke cigars. It's just a lifestyle choice.

But, I think that with spirituality, it's a different thing, that people **do** feel guilty, they **do** feel angry. They have resentments from this life and other lives where people forced religion. They've seen people do heinous, heinous things in the name of religion.

Right now, there's all this controversy, still, about the cover-up of the priests molesting children, and there's still no talk that I know of, of women having power in the Catholic church or being in leadership, real true leadership. So, for many people it's a very challenging topic to bring up.

*My spirituality was
saving my life*

Here's what I've learned--when I was in my late 20s, my early 30s, particularly, I was so enthusiastic about what I was learning about spirituality, it felt like **light** at the end of a **very** dark tunnel! I was coming out of feeling suicidal, and so my spirituality was saving my life! It was making it possible for me to continue.

But, my family didn't **know** that, because I didn't talk to them about my suicidal feelings, and I am clear that I am-- sorry, I got distracted by noise.

When I was first coming to spirituality, I was very enthusiastic and excited about it, and I think I did what many spiritual students do when they're new to spirituality, and in that first love feeling about it. That, "Oh, my God! This is the answer! Oh, my God! This is what I've been looking for. **Oh, my God! I found God!**"

Although, I didn't like the "God" word back then, it was too--I couldn't stand it because it was too associated with religion back then.

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And so, what happened was I became a zealot in a lot of ways, and I thought, “Oh, well **everybody** wants to know about this!” I was very naïve. And, no. It turns out everyone **does not** want to know about it. In fact, many people intentionally **do not** wish to know about it.

I didn’t realize it at the time, but I was unintentionally being disrespectful and pushy about it, and so I think I suffered a backlash because of that. And now, people aren’t interested at all.

My father still goes to church all the time, and he talks about church constantly. But he doesn’t talk about the teachings of the church, and he doesn’t talk about the message in the sermon. He doesn’t talk about God. He talks about the book group, and the discussion group, and the potluck, and all the social aspect of it. But that’s my dad. That’s why he **goes** to church, because it’s a social center of people who might share the same values and interests. Also, it tends to be because of the church he picks tends to be more intellectual, as my dad is on that intellectual side. He’s not doing the backyard barbecues, people talking about football, so much. He’s more talking about books.

The two big things that I see that happen for **many** people are they **do** become zealots and they offend people. They want to engage everyone around them, and they’re not reading the signs that people are not interested.

Feeling a Threat with Differences

Another thing that happens is that family members get really threatened. **Really** threatened! Mine didn’t, so much, but I see it happen all the time with folks who are in my classes, and I’ve seen it happen with my friends. They go full-on goo-goo for God -- or even a little bit-- and their loved ones feel **very** threatened.

Now, whenever somebody feels very threatened by something, when there’s a lot of fear, sometimes they show up as **angry**. Sometimes they show up as sarcastic and derisive. These are very common, that people get dismissive if they don’t understand something, if they don’t like something. They don’t appreciate it and they feel threatened that somebody else does like it, does appreciate it, is interested in it. There can be a very deep fear, “Oh, no! This is going to affect our relationship!”

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Many people will feel that spiritual people are superior, or **think** they're superior, and so folks who are more interested in drinking, and fooling around sexually, and doing all of that stuff, they can feel **really** threatened by someone who becomes very spiritual in their life that they're close to, that there's going to be a lot of judgment against them, that they're "bad" and they're "wrong".

Because, let's face it, religion, particularly Christianity, has coasted for many, many hundreds of years, thousands of years, on deciding who's good and who's bad, who's right and who's wrong. And so, that's a primary thing, is "Who are the sinners?" Labeling the sinners, identifying the sins. That's a big part of a lot of religions, and we see that a lot in Christianity.

People have a fear, even if someone is going into spirituality, that, "Oh, no! Now they're going to turn around and say I'm a sinner!" Or, they already feel, secretly, like a sinner, and now-- oh! They're going to be with someone who doesn't want to sin alongside them, and oh, boy! That's going to change their relationship, that's going to change their lifestyle.

Instead of **talking** about their fears and concerns, **talking** about their thoughts and beliefs, what people will frequently do is they will just start making fun of something, being sarcastic and teasing, or being derisive, really being derogatory and attacking.

Being Supportive of Our Differences

If we can know that it rises from fear, we can make a different choice. I have a couple of friends who are married, women friends who are married, to men who are not particularly interested in spirituality. They have a **respect** for it, just like they have a respect for soccer, let's say. They could talk a little bit about soccer, but it's not really an **interest**. They don't need to make fun of soccer. They're not afraid of soccer.

With their wives, who are **passionately** interested in spirituality-- I've one who is **super** passionate and one who is moderately passionate-- and both of their husbands are extremely 100% supportive.

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“You want to go to that thing, to do the chanting? Would you like me to come along? Is it okay if I don’t go? What’s the deal? Would you like me to get the tickets? I can order them online for you.”

“I saw this movie about this documentary about this aspect of spirituality. You might be interested in it. I know you like those things.”

“Oh, you want to go to that conference and bring all your crystals or whatever? Would you like me to pack up the car, drive you there, wait for you and then pack it all up and then bring it back home? I can do that. I’d love to do that. Just let’s figure out what time you’d like to leave, how long it’s going to take to pack the car.”

I mean, that’s what loving, supportive family members who **aren’t** threatened will naturally do. “How can I be helpful to you in you making your goals of things that are important to you?”

I’ve said before, and these same friends of mine, their husbands are interested in **different** things, and they’re very supportive of **them**.

“Oh, you want to drive up the coast for five hours to pick up an antique surfboard? Well, let’s see! Let’s go! I’ll pack a lunch and we’ll go! We can stop at that place that you like so much and have dinner. We can stay at that hotel that’s so romantic!”

You know, that’s **teamwork**. Team work!

And so, what happens is, when there’s a great sense of separation, and fear,

and threat, there’s a **major** healing that can happen. We were just talking about something very different, but somewhat similar--[laughs] I guess that doesn’t even make sense! We’ll just say somewhat similar --in *Masterful Living* recently. It seems like a **giant** separation, and the separation is **so** painful. The **belief** in separation is so painful. But, it can be transformed. It really can. It **does** require some **real** attention and effort, so it requires us to be vigilant for God.

The belief in separation is so painful. But, it can be transformed.

Relinquishing Our Grievances

As I was preparing to talk about this, it was super clear--it came through like a shot--what my favorite Lesson in the *Workbook*, which is “*Love holds no grievances.*” It’s Lesson 68, and--oh, I’m looking in the wrong part of the

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book here! Golly gee! Technology! Oh, I see what I'm doing. Oops! Sorry! Oh, my goodness! Here we go! Lesson 68,

"Love holds no grievances."

It says in here that we forget who we are when we hold grievances, and we can't remember until we forgive.

"It is as sure that those who hold grievances will forget who they are, as it is certain that those who forgive will remember. Would you not be willing to relinquish your grievances if you believed all this were so?"

For me, when I first read that, I thought, "Oh! **That's** the key! That is the key, relinquishing all the grievances. I had already been working on that for a number of years, specifically focused on grievances which, for me, I called them judgments, opinions, and if you've been listening to this show at all, you know that by heart.

And so, here's what we do when we'd like to be that fulcrum point of healing, that transformational point, in our family. We cultivate our willingness to do what needs to be done, and the first thing that needs to be done is **we** must stop attacking the attacker or judging the judger.

For instance, if we're disappointed that our family members, our loved ones, our friends aren't interested, we must forgive **ourselves**. I know! We must forgive **ourselves** for thinking that they "should" be interested. We must forgive ourselves for **needing** them to be interested, and we must forgive ourselves for anything that we've said or done that could make them feel guilty, or bad, or wrong for **not** being interested. This is one of the most common things, that people make others feel guilty because they don't agree. Oh, it's such a temptation!

This is where we're beginning, this level of taking responsibility.

It's time for me to go to a break here. One of the things I'd like to invite you to do on the break is to go check out that radio page at

LivingACourseInMiracles.com, and if you **do** have a topic, let me know what it is! Or, you can send an e-mail to Admin@JenniferHadley.com.

You're listening to *A Course in Miracles* and I'll be right back!

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

Thank you for tuning in for *A Course in Miracles: Living the Love, Walking the Talk*.

Awareness of Diversity

Welcome back! We're talking about *When Your Family Isn't Spiritual*.

One of the tools, the number one tool, is we must forgive ourselves **first**. I know for a lot of people, they're like, "Oh. Okay." But then, they don't do it! I'm going to suggest that if you'd like **help** with that, I have a whole bunch of tools, and they're totally free at JenniferHadley.com. You can get my free forgiveness workshop, [*How to Get Over It!*](#) and one of the tools is the forgiveness letter.

That forgiveness letter is **so** helpful! You can just write through, and then do all the steps of it and forgive yourself. People tell me all the time--especially people who've been struggling with issues for some time, and think that it's all about the **other** person, it's not about themselves--it's amazing how very frequently I will say, "It's all about **self**-forgiveness" and then someone who--they just don't even hear me say, "Write a self-forgiveness letter."

They're like, "Okay. So, I wrote that letter to my wife." I'm like, "No, I said write it to **yourself**." "Myself?" I said, "Yes! I said write it to yourself." "Oh! You sure?" "Yes! I am sure!"

We must write the letters, or have some other really effective forgiveness process, to forgive **ourselves** for being judgmental, forgive **ourselves** for being attacking, forgive **ourselves** for having the pattern in our mind, and the belief in separation, that is showing up as feeling separate from our loved ones.

What I see is that this makes a huge difference for people, because they don't even realize the ways in which they are making others feel guilty, or ashamed, or bad, or wrong for not agreeing, and they think, "Oh, no. It's just that my wife doesn't respect me," or "My husband doesn't value what I'm doing and is so threatened that they have to attack all the time."

But, most times, I find that people are not even **aware** of their own disrespect toward their loved one. While it would be **nice** for us to have our whole family, and our friends, and our loved ones, and our coworkers all on board with the same, it's really an **inside job**. Just like *A Course in Miracles*

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is a self-study course. It **seems** like it would be nice if everybody was doing the same thing and interested in the same thing.

But, I have to say, I have a lot of people in my life who are very much interested in the same spirituality as me, and I'm **always** happy for someone who has a different thing. Their spirituality is their relationship with the land and forestry, or gardening, or fishing, or whatever it might be that is their connection to the earth, to Spirit, to life. It could be cooking. Having relationship with people who bring diversity is really rewarding, and so we can learn a deep respect for **their** diversity.

"To have, give all to all."

Finding Freedom Through Self-forgiveness

When we're loving, and respectful, and kind, and **not** guiltting and shaming towards others, what happens is, we **naturally** learn to love and respect them, and they can **feel** the difference. Words don't matter! It's the **feeling**. At least, it is for **me**. Words are **okay**, but really, it's the **feeling** of respect that's so valuable to me.

What I've seen is that **when** we do that inner self-forgiveness work, then it's **so much** easier to stop judging others. Committing to not judging others, and really meaning it, following through on it, and looking for ways to appreciate even the differences is **super** healing and helpful.

I'm a big proponent of the forgiveness practice known as Ho'oponopono. It'll be in the transcript. I actually share about Ho'oponopono, and the value of it, in my yearlong [*Masterful Living Class*](#), and, I think, a little bit in my [*Finding Freedom From Fear*](#) class.

By the way, *Finding Freedom From Fear* starts this week! Get in on it! It's such a great time! Oh, my God! The energy for shifts and change right now is **so huge!**

I have been talking with **so** many people lately who are feeling pained and pushed by relationships, by situations and circumstances, and those who are really doing the inner work are **reaping the rewards**. So, exactly what I'm talking about, the self-forgiveness work.

I know, for myself, it's been so **valuable** to move into that place where I am **really, really** deeply committed to no more separation-- just no more separation thinking! Because it was such a strong pattern in my mind to

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notice the differences, and to feel--I used to feel so hurt when people didn't agree with me, or people had different opinions than me. I used to feel like I needed to make them so, so wrong, and I just don't wish to engage in any of that anymore. I'm totally zero interest in that.

Yet, it comes up for healing on a regular basis still. Not like it used to! I mean, it just was **constant**.

I was thinking about this, this morning that the discomfort I feel now, that's like a "10" it was probably less than a "1" from my old perspective. So, I know that this healing **works**.

Healing Our Relationships

Now, here's another thing for us to look at--do we **need** people to agree with us? And, if so, what's **that** about, the needing the wanting, the craving?

I certainly can understand-- you're married to someone, you have children, you would like to bring them to Sunday service with you, you'd like to be able to listen to a CD in the car with them. You'd like to be able to do these things. **But**, if you have a lot of needing, wanting, craving, a lot of emotion and pain around it, you have a lot of opinions and judgments, you have a lot of attachments--I know, that was how it used to be for me.

***Distress in our
relationship is evidence
of a special relationship***

I can remember trying to engage my mom in listening to certain things. She had a certain interest and a certain tolerance, but it was much less than me. I think she was more Edgar Cayce interested, than spirituality in the way of practicing it, like in *A Course in Miracles*. She was more interested in phenomena and things like that. But that's okay. It was my mom who have gave me Shirley MacLaine's book, *Out on a Limb* that kind of started everything off for me, so I'm very, very grateful for that!

What I know is that **when** we do what it says in *A Course in Miracles* Chapter 17, Section V, *The Healed Relationship*, right there it tells us that this distress in our relationship is evidence of a special relationship, and it's the

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impetus that we need to call the Holy Spirit in and to make the relationship holy.

For me, I don't believe in managing and coping anymore. I go for the miraculous healing, because I know that it works, and that Spirit does not fail! It just can't, it won't, it don't!

And so, this is the next **important** and valuable step for us in healing our relationship issues when there's a lot of turmoil around our spirituality-- we give it to the Holy Spirit for healing.

"Holy Spirit, I'm **willing** to have a healing. I'm willing for there to be Peace in my heart, Peace in my mind, Peace in my family, Peace in my conversation. Peace in my workplace," because all of these tools would work the same for a workplace.

Opportunities for Healing

I remember one time, back when I was doing some consulting, I went into a business. I was a minister-- or, training to be a minister at that time-- and someone said, "Oh, what is it you **believe** about God?" I said, "Well, I believe that God is all there is, that God is the All in All, and that we're all One with God. So, I don't believe that God is an old man in the sky with opinions Who has preferences. What about you?"

He said, "I believe in the old man in the sky Who has preferences and opinions."

I said, "Okay, cool! Good to know!" I didn't need to talk about it with him or change his mind. We both smiled. We laughed. All was well.

Of course, we were just meeting for an afternoon. But still, I have been in situations where the same thing could happen, and someone would become a zealot, and then it's like a battle cry that there's someone who believes something different.

I understand the mentality "I'm just trying **to save you** from going to hell!" Because when I was 10 years old, that's what my best friend kind of said to me. I had all these Catholic girlfriends, and one day they said, "Ugh! It's too bad you're going to hell because you're not baptized."

I don't think I'd ever heard about the possibility of going to hell because I wasn't baptized, but I felt it, and I thought, "That just sounds crazy!"

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Because I knew what baptism was. I'd seen it at my grandparents' church, the dunking in the water, and I was like, "I just don't think that has anything to do with going to hell or not going to hell." So, I didn't let it bother me. But, I **could** have! I **could** have! I was **way** more interested in being friends with my friends.

That's the thing is, what's our priority? And, do we **need** everybody to agree with us? What does that **come** from? That comes from ego insecurity.

"Love holds no grievances."

I'm much more interested in learning **who I am**, and how to Love fully, than letting anything get in the way anymore. Stuff still gets in the way all the time, little things here and there, but that's my opportunity to have a clearing and a healing. I think that's one of the most important things that I can share with you, is to take every single upset-- no matter how small or how big-- and become **dedicated** to seeing it as the opportunity to have a healing, rather than to be upset.

"Oh! This is my healing opportunity! Thank You, thank You, thank You God, for my healing opportunities today! I'm choosing my healing! Holy Spirit, make it so!"

I learned to do that! And, if I was still feeling agitated a minute later or whatever later, I'd go back. "Oh, I think there's something for me to look at. There's a strong attachment here, and I can let **that** go and be more free! Alright! Let me let that go!"

When people are saying things--and it could be us! --when people are saying things that are designed to make people feel guilty, a lot of the time they don't even **know** it! They don't even know it, because of how they were raised, because their mind doesn't **wish** to see it or know it. They think that making other people feel guilty is **good**. It's **so** common!

I notice this in my mind, **still**! It's still there, still coming out here and there. "Oh! That was designed to make them feel guilty! Hmm! Must forgive myself for that! Alright! No judgment, no foul. Should I apologize?"

A lot of the time I feel, "Yes! Apologize!" That keeps my relationships clean.

A lot of times people will say things that are designed to make **me** feel guilty. "**You** make me feel this!" "**You** make me feel that!" Well, **do we** have the power to make other people feel things? Do we **really**? Can I

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inspire my family, my loved ones, to become interested in God? Can I actively **try** to do that by giving them information? I don't think so. I don't think so **at all**.

However, when people **see** that you're happy, that you feel free, that you're enjoying your life, that you're prospering, they often would like to know, "Hey! What can I learn from you? What are you doing that I can learn from you?" It's really cool!

People are always watching what you're doing, what you're not doing, what you're choosing, what you're not choosing. So, if we're trying to share our spirituality with people, and we don't **seem** happy, then why would they be interested? **Why?** No! it doesn't make any sense!

Let Spirit tap people. Spirit's talking to everyone all the time, because we're part of Spirit. We're One with Spirit. I have learned I don't need to prove anything to anyone. I don't need to **explain** anything to anyone who's not **asking** me.

Feeling Empowered

I can share my excitement and my enthusiasm, but I've learned to be very cautious if what I'm trying to do is **convince** someone. Then, I don't have anything to say or share. It's better to just keep my mouth shut.

Do I do that 100% of the time? No! I still fall down and get up. But, I don't blame and attack myself, and I don't want to **fight** with anyone anymore about any of these things!

And, fortunately if someone **does** want to pick a fight with me about it, I have the power to say, "You know? I feel like you're trying to convince me of these things. You know, there might come a time when I'd be interested in that conversation, but I'm not feeling it **right now**. So, let's not waste anybody's time--you trying to convince me, me trying to get out of it. Let's just decide that now's not the time. We'll see. Maybe in the future there will be a great time, and you could tell me all about it, and try to convince me. How does that sound?"

I mean, I've just said to people sometimes, "I don't really feel like talking about that right now." People have challenged me and said, "You're a minister. You should be wanting to talk about it **all** the time!" I've said, "No. No! we're having lunch. We're going for a walk. We're doing

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something else right now. We can talk about something else. We can talk about what we like about this restaurant. We can talk about the path through nature, and what plants inspire us. We **don't** have to have a conversation about religion, or God, or spirituality all the time. No! We don't! We can talk about cooking! We can talk about **nothing!** We don't have to talk! I'm happy to talk with you, but I don't wish to **argue.**"

One of the things is that **many** people do not feel comfortable saying what they'd like and what they don't like. Part of why they don't feel comfortable saying what they'd like, and they don't like, is they **don't feel** that they can do it without making somebody else bad or wrong.

And, they also don't feel empowered.
Why don't they feel empowered?
Empowerment comes from being loving.

**Empowerment comes
from being loving.**

"Love holds no grievances."

Truly, our power comes from being generous of Spirit, being kind, being gentle, being loving, being harmonious. That's just how it works.

The Value of No Judgment

I'm going to see here. Chapter 4 of the *Manual for Teachers* is the *Characteristics of God's Teachers*, and the last one, number 10, is *Open-Mindedness*. It says here,

"The centrality of open-mindedness, perhaps the last of the attributes the teacher of God acquires, is easily understood when its relation to forgiveness is recognized. Open-mindedness comes with lack of judgment. As judgment shuts the mind against God's Teacher, so open-mindedness invites Him to come in. As condemnation judges the Son of God as evil, so open-mindedness permits him to be judged by the Voice for God on His behalf. As the projection of guilt upon him would send him to hell, so open-mindedness lets Christ's image be extended to him. Only the open-minded can be at peace, for they alone see reason for it."

"How do the open-minded forgive? They have let go all things that would prevent forgiveness. They have in truth abandoned the world, and let it be restored to them in newness and in joy so glorious they could never have conceived of such a change."

That's the thing. Open-mindedness, that Characteristic of God, is having **no** judgment, and it's having **no** judgment that frees us to Love. It frees us to

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hear our intuition, to be respectful, and to be kind with those with whom we don't agree.

Just because--I mean, I have friends that I don't agree with politically at all! They feel very strongly, and I feel very strongly. But, I don't **need** to judge. Been there, done that, got the t-shirt, and I also did the suffering. I don't wish to do that anymore! I can have my strong political point of view and perspective without the pain of being judgmental. These are my preferences. I prefer to--well, we don't need to talk about my political preferences.

And so, I can totally have a political conversation with somebody who completely disagrees with me and remain at Peace. I think it's so valuable to be able to reach that state, and the only way is to disregard your **own** judgments and opinions, to see that **they** have no value. When we shift internally, the world shifts.

"... seek not to change the world but choose to change your mind about the world."

Yes. Family and friends may not agree with us spiritually, and they may be very, very threatened by it. So, we must respect that, and Love and appreciate them, not argue with them, and not put it in their face. Not bring it up to them, but to gently let them see, "Ah!" You're happier!

To have support, and Love, and kindness, and generosity, give those very same things to all.

I know one of the most wonderful things that happen sometimes with people in *Masterful Living*, towards the end of the year their spouses will say, "Well, gosh! That was sure a great investment of money, you taking that class! Wow! We've gotten so much benefit from **you** taking that class!"

But, if we're trying to make others wrong, and we're judging them and complaining about them all the time-- even if we don't say it out loud-- why would **they** be supportive? **We're** not being supportive!

To **have** support, and Love, and kindness, and generosity, give those very same things to all.

"To have, give all to all."

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If you have these kinds of issues, actually [*Finding Freedom From Fear*](#) with *A Course in Miracles* principles **may be** your perfect step to deepen in your practice in *A Course in Miracles*, your understanding of **how** to really **live** *A Course in Miracles*. We've got a new Bootcamp starting this week, on Thursday, September 6th. I look forward to beginning that Bootcamp, as I always do. it's just got **so much!** [*Finding Freedom From Fear*](#), my *Spiritual Bootcamp* class.

Closing Prayer

It's time for us to pray.

I am so grateful to everyone who supports this broadcast. Thank you for joining me!

In gratitude, I place my hand on my heart, and I gratefully say we are choosing to Love, and share the Love with everyone, because we are One with them. In gratitude, we let it be. And so, it is. Amen. Amen. Amen.