



CIRCLE OF ATONEMENT

Dedicated to *A Course in Miracles*

The Teachings of A Course in Miracles (Part 1)

ACIM RADIO #2 EPISODE GUIDE

A Course in Miracles offers a unique approach to the healing of human suffering. Following an educational (versus religious) model of learning, the Course provides a pathway out of our suffering through the disciplined practice of love and forgiveness.

The following six themes are covered in this episode of **A Course in Miracles Radio**. These themes are derived from a handout written by Circle founder Robert Perry entitled *The Teachings of A Course in Miracles*. Please tune in to our next episode where we will cover Part Two of this handout.

1. God

Everything begins with God. Unlike the God of traditional religion, however, God in *A Course in Miracles* is no more male than female, and He contains no anger, judgment, or punishment whatsoever. He is pure, unbounded, unconditional love. He is also different than the impersonal God of much contemporary spirituality in that He thinks, feels, makes promises, and yearns for our return. Yet since He has no body or ego, His thoughts and feelings are limitless and eternal.

2. The Son

The Course says that we, like God, are also limitless, bodiless spiritual beings. God created us as His beloved Son, His miracle, His masterpiece. We are one with Him, yet we are the created and He is the Creator. God loves us with an all-encompassing intensity that exceeds our current comprehension. He placed us in an infinite Heaven in which there is no time and space, only "an awareness of perfect oneness." Heaven is our home; where we are from and where we will return.

3. The separation

In the oneness of Heaven, a thought of separation entered our minds. We wanted to be above the other Sons and even above God Himself. As a result, we seemed to separate from God, but this separation was not real. Heaven is the only reality; there is nowhere else to go. We thus merely fell asleep and dreamed of somewhere else: a universe of time and space. The physical universe, in other words, is our projection; it is not God's creation. And since it is only a dream, it has no power to determine who we are or control what we feel.



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4. The ego

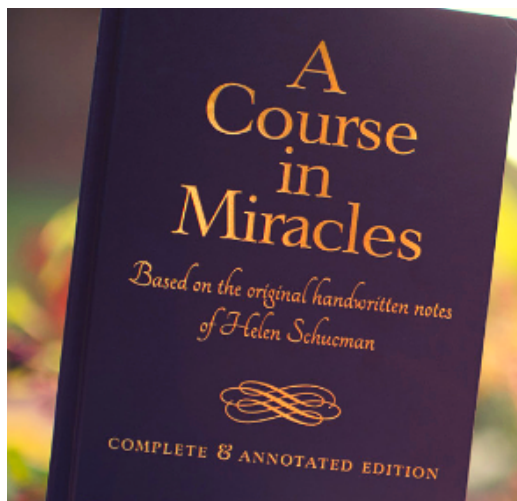
Out of the separation was born the ego, our belief that we are separate and on our own, that we are alone against the universe. Based on this belief, we strive to be special—better than others. We feel that our gain must come at their expense. Our behavior is thus laced with attack and this instills in us deep (and mostly unconscious) feelings of guilt. We feel sinful at our core, believing we “have made a devil of God’s Son.” Yet this is impossible, for God created us and what God creates cannot be changed.

5. Our search for happiness

Guided by the ego, we pursue happiness by trying to control external events. We seek money, material things, and special relationships in order to fill a presumed lack, yet this search is an impossible quest because we are striving for happiness that cannot be found in the external world. We won’t solve our human predicament by controlling the world. The problem lies at another level.

6. Perception

The problem is not outer events, but our interpretation of them. We project onto them meanings from within our own ego-based thought system. As the Course says, “projection makes perception.” In projection, we hurl outside what we don’t want to see within. In essence, we hurl our ego, with its destructive will and attendant guilt, onto the world. Now that our ego appears to be out there, not within, we see ourselves as the “good guy” surrounded by vicious wills wanting to hurt us. As a result, we live in a never-ending state of fear.



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Hosted by Robert Perry & Mary Anne Buchowski

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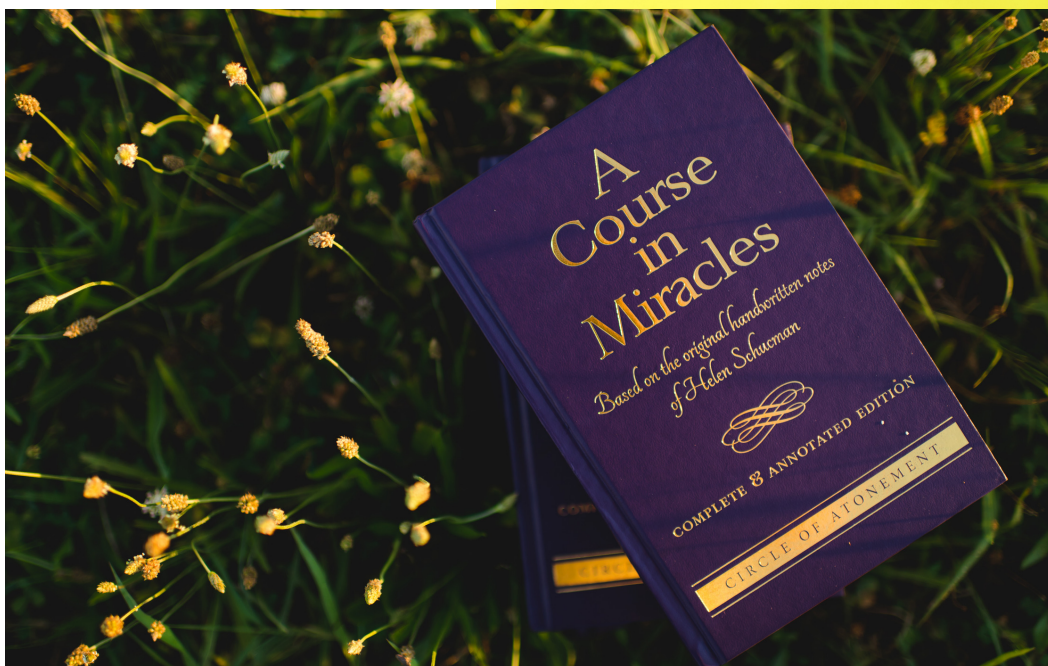
The following is a timestamp of episode 2 for your convenience.

Announcements	:35
God	3:45
The Son	13:00
The separation	26:15
The ego	37:50
Our search for happiness	50:30
Perception	59:00
Closing thoughts	1:11:47

Reflection questions

We invite you to journal on the questions below and use them as conversation starters in your ACIM study group if you have one.

1. What have you believed about God in the Course? Does it surprise you to hear that He is not impersonal, but has His Own thoughts, feelings, and intentions—just without the limitations we usually associate with those things?
2. How have you seen the ego—as a useful survival mechanism in this world, as something to befriend and love, or as a destructive belief to be let go? Can you see benefits to seeing it as the third option?
3. Do you tend to see yourself as the “good guy” surrounded by less well-intentioned actors? How does it feel to consider that this is exactly what we’d expect you to see if you were projecting your own ego outward?



Written by
ROBERT PERRY

Listener q&a

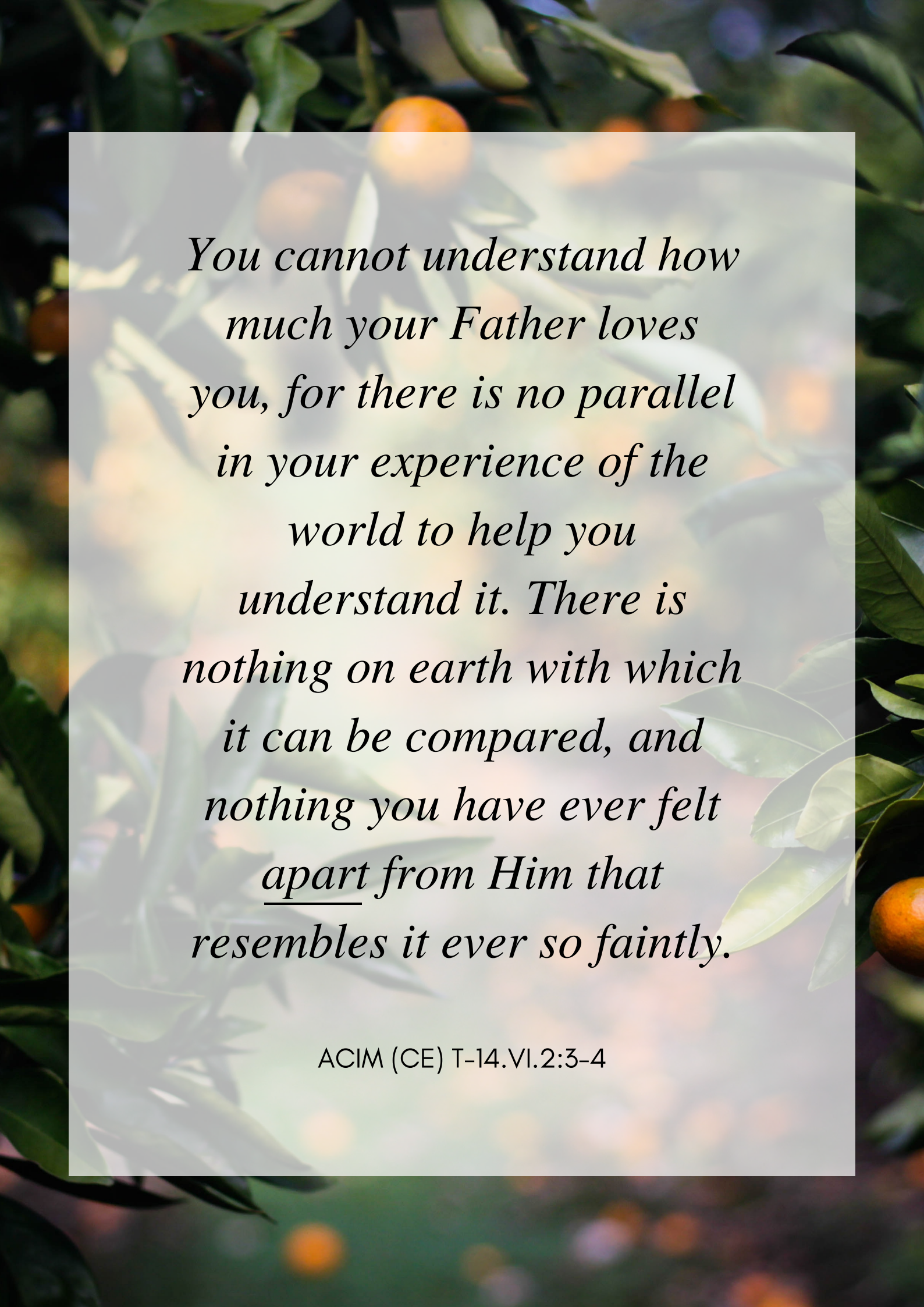
Q. Could you please address the statement in the Course that “God is lonely without his Sons”? I don’t think that God has emotions like we do in the dream, right?

Well, God does have emotions, but it’s true that His emotions are not like ours on earth, in that His are limitless, purely positive, and changeless. That is why the statement that He is lonely is so puzzling at first. Yet the Course says this three times (T-2.VI.12:4, T-4.X.8:7, and T-7.VI.11:7) and says it quite plainly, as we can see here: “The constant going out of His love is blocked when His channels are closed, and He is lonely when the minds He created do not communicate fully with Him” (T-4.X.8:7).

These repeated statements make sense if you realize that God is in a real relationship with us. The reason He created us is that He “did not will to be alone” (the Course says this an astonishing five times). If, therefore, we pull away from Him into our own private state of sleep—and thus “do not communicate fully with Him”—then how can He not feel the very aloneness that He had sought to avoid by creating us? In a relationship, one partner is affected by the other. That’s how relationship works.

We can assume that this aloneness is not the same as what we experience here on earth, for it is experienced by a Being Who is eternally complete and in infinite joy. Yet this Being is also in a relationship with a partner who, in a manner of speaking, left Him. This means that there must be some sense, however unfathomable to us, in which God feels something distantly analogous to human loneliness.

To submit a question for a future episode guide, please email info@circleofa.org.

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of several bright orange fruits hanging from a tree with dark green, glossy leaves. The lighting is soft, creating a warm and natural atmosphere. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

*You cannot understand how
much your Father loves
you, for there is no parallel
in your experience of the
world to help you
understand it. There is
nothing on earth with which
it can be compared, and
nothing you have ever felt
apart from Him that
resembles it ever so faintly.*

ACIM (CE) T-14.VI.2:3-4



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