

A Course in Miracles Response to Haiti

As we look on the events happening in Haiti many Course students wonder how they can respond to the situation, while staying true to the teachings of the Course. We have a tendency to think that our response is an either/or choice. Either join with the belief that this *is* a tragedy; that the pain and suffering is very real and then rush to help **or** sit back and say “it’s all an illusion” and do nothing believing that if we did respond we would be reinforcing the illusion and that would not be helpful. Is it an either/or choice or is there a way to respond to the needs of the people of Haiti without reinforcing the reality of the illusion? I have outlined 3 teachings from the Course that I hope with help you discern as A Course in Miracles student how to look at and respond to this situation.

Practice #1: I will remember that what I am seeing is an outward picture of an inward condition.

As Course students a teaching that might be helpful to remember when looking at the events in Haiti is this: the world we see is an outside picture of an inward condition. In other words, the picture we see when looking at the world is a reflection of the beliefs in the mind in the same way a movie on a screen is a reflection of what is in the projector.

What belief in the mind could make such a tragic and horrific scene appear on the world’s screen? A belief in guilt. This idea is explained in this passage: “The acceptance of guilt into the mind of God’s Son was the beginning of the separation, as the acceptance of the Atonement is its end. The world you see is the delusional system of those made mad by guilt. Look carefully at this world, and you will realize that this is so. For this world is the symbol of punishment, and all the laws that seem to govern it are the laws of death.” (T-13.in.2) The events in Haiti, the attacks in our own lives, the judgments of others, illness; death are all outward symbols of the guilt held in the mind. They are what a “mind made mad by guilt” dreams about. This is an important teaching in the Course. We look on devastation and recognize that what we see is an effect. The cause is the mind and what it believes. Therefore the solution is to heal the mind of the belief in guilt.

Practice #2: I will deny the false and affirm the truth. (Ref. T.3.II.6)

Seeing a catastrophic event such as Haiti, there is a temptation to believe that your brothers and sisters are bodies that can be hurt and killed. Believing they are these bodies is affirming that the mind is guilty of tearing itself apart from heaven, housing the Son of God in a body, and turning Light and Love into darkness and fear. The Course teaches that although it is *impossible* to change what God created it is *possible* to believe you have. The mind is caught in a nightmare and believes in what it sees and experiences. What is most helpful to those who are dreaming a nightmare and believe in its reality?

The first step is to withdraw *your* faith in what you are seeing. Do not be deceived by appearances. Regardless of what your physical eyes report, are you willing to “accept (only) what is true in everything you perceive?” Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the truth that lies beyond appearances. His perception will reveal to you that the people of Haiti remain as God created them; whole, changeless and at peace. Accept the truth in your own mind and “offer them *your* acceptance of *their* truth so they can accept it for themselves.” Can this really help the people of Haiti a thousand miles away? Listen to these words in W.#132; “As you send out these thoughts to bless the world, healing comes to many brothers far across the world, as well as to the ones you see nearby.”

Practice #3: I will meet the need as guided as I *continue* to affirm the truth.

What if anything, should we do for the people of Haiti who appear to have many needs? We can answer this question by looking at how the Holy Spirit responds to us when we believe we have needs.

“Only the Holy Spirit knows what you need. For He will give you all things that do not block the way to light. And what else could you need? In time, He gives you all the things that you need have, and will renew them as long as you have need of them. He will take nothing from you as long as you have any need of it. And yet He knows that everything you need is temporary, and will but last until you step aside from all your needs and realize that all of them have been fulfilled. Therefore He has no investment in the things that He supplies, except to make certain that you will not use them on behalf of lingering in time. “(T-13.VII.12.)

This is a very loving message. Our Teacher accepts our temporary state of needs knowing full well that it is not true and it will not last. He has complete faith that we will come fully to accept that we already have everything and are everything. In the meantime, He will comfort us as long as we are lost in the nightmare. To me, this is confirmation that to respond to perceived needs is in line with the Course’s teachings. But also, it’s important to note that it is the Holy Spirit who knows what the need is and how to respond because His way will not block the truth or keep us “lingering in time”. His way will provide the need and heal the mind for all involved. Our part is to set our mind straight (practice #1 and #2) and then stay open to how we might let the Spirit move through us.

Once guided to act in a way that is most helpful it is important to affirm the truth while we act so as to not give any reality to what is not real. Here is a suggested phrase that will affirm the truth while acting in this situation involving Haiti: “All I have comes from God and so I give all things to you freely and with gratitude, for you too are part of His Kingdom and I would have you know the truth of Who you are”.

How do we help heal the world? First accept the truth within our own mind. Extend this truth to those who need help in remembering Who they really are. Agree to not be fooled by the appearance of illusions. Seek only the truth in any situation and put our behavior under the guidance of Holy Spirit. This is how we are truly helpful to our brothers and sisters in Haiti and this is how we help heal the world.