

Why the Words of Jesus in the Bible and A Course in Miracles are More Similar Than We Think

Written By: Britney Shawley and Edited by: Dr. Andrew Dean

Introduction

From New Age to Christ

I am speaking on this subject today as someone who loves Jesus and follows Him in my everyday life and work. I come from the New Age community and since my family growing up was not religious, finding myself in the New Age was refreshing and helpful. I developed a trust in a power greater than myself, learned to pray, observe, listen, receive and most importantly to ASK. I began to ask the universe for help and guidance for my next steps in my healing, my life and with work. I was answered every time I earnestly asked.

In 2010 I asked to put on a workshop in Hawaii and my prayer, yet again, was answered. It was on the beautiful beach of Maui when Jesus spoke to me for the first time. He told me that He would be my teacher and I could trust Him with everything. So I asked him to prove it. Well... prove it he did. As soon as I arrived home from Hawaii within one week I met Tom Glod, my now Husband, and he brought me the book A Course in Miracles 'Sparkly' edition with 'Jesus' written on the front cover. I became totally committed to this Course and to Jesus from that day onwards.

I let go of many spiritual practices I developed, but meditation and mind training through the lessons of the A Course in Miracles remained. These practices helped me to hear the Holy Spirit and further develop my relationship with Jesus most personally. For the last 12 years this has been my focus: to heal myself and to help others to heal through the Holy Spirit and Christ guidance, so that together we can abide by the laws of God, fulfil our holy function and be of greatest service to Humanity.

I want to bring the A Course in Miracles and Jesus perspective I have to this conversation, and highlight the similarities and commonalities between A Course in Miracles and the Bible. This way, when we see that we are more alike than different, it may give us a chance to let go of the judgement of what we do not know, and open our hearts to our brothers and sisters who may be on a different path than us. We all ultimately want to be brought closer to Jesus, to each other, to God and to peace.

With this being said, let's dive into the side-by-side comparisons of the Bible and A Course in Miracles.

First things first, I want to acknowledge and validate any concerns Christians have about the new age movement or A Course in Miracles. Asking if A Course in Miracles/ the New Age is the devil's work is an important question to ask. I believe Christians want to know, and want others to know the True Jesus and not be led astray or follow any preacher just because they sound pretty. And I totally agree! Blind faith is not what is asked for here.

We need to apply true discernment, in our personal search for true learning. If we are going to dedicate our minds, lives and souls to a path of spiritual learning...which would be true for most readers of this article... well... we definitely want to make sure we are not being led astray, or "run by the devil", as some might say. Asking these questions, and making sure the source of what we are learning is of God, is necessary.

The Similarities between the Bible and A Course in Miracles

I have come to see that traditional views in Christianity encompass the belief that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead three days later and because of this we are saved. We are also told that we are born "sinners" and have to repent enough to become a new creation, an adopted child of God. Along with this, we are also told two narratives within the Christian community, and you may ascribe to one or both depending on what sub-unit of Christianity you rest within. The narratives are 1) the main goal of life on earth being to ultimately have 'Heaven on Earth' and "The Kingdom of God" be manifested here, or 2) we are redeemed by Jesus when we believe in him and can reach "Heaven" after our death, or alternatively we would go to "Hell".

Let's begin with the shared fact that Jesus rose from the dead. A Course in Miracles agrees with this as well and we can see a reference to it in Miracle Principle 27: ***"My word, which is the Resurrection and the Light, shall not pass away because Light is eternal."*** You can also learn more about how the resurrection is perceived in A Course in Miracles through this prayer that is given us in the Clarification of Terms: ***"There is no death because the Son of God is like his Father. Nothing you can do can change Eternal Love. Forget your dreams of sin and guilt, and come with me instead to share the resurrection of God's Son. And bring with you all those whom He has sent to you to care for as I care for you."*** Jesus in A Course in Miracles is wanting us to focus on the resurrection as His main demonstration and lesson for us to learn from. Since Jesus rose from the dead, and He demonstrated He is eternal, this means He is still alive now and with us even still. This also would mean that He is here to guide us, directly and specifically just as Jesus says in the Bible, in John 14:18-23 ***"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."***

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

This is showing to me that A Course in Miracles confirms what the Bible says, that Jesus is alive, and in us and thus we share in (eternal) Life along with him. Both texts teach that we can learn to follow His commandment of Love, that our Loving Father and brother Christ will manifest themselves to us. This is indeed good news. It means that because Jesus completed his mission on earth perfectly, we have *"nothing to fear"*, because Love and eternal Life are our shared reality. I do believe that the acceptance of these whole ideas found in the Bible and A Course in Miracles, will lead us to the experience of "Heaven on Earth" that is here now, as Jesus professed to us.

It's also made clear in A Course in Miracles that ***"Miracles are everyone's right, but purification is necessary first"*** (T-1.1.7:1). So Jesus is confirming and affirming that before we purify our minds to align with God's Love and Laws, we need to start the process of perceptual correction, the undoing of unhelpful beliefs, and then ultimately the rebuilding (re-birthing) of New and Whole beliefs. This is the purification process. This is also why the Course in Miracles focuses so much on correcting our errors and removing our "blocks" to the awareness of Love's presence. At the beginning of the course, it tells us that: ***"The Course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance"***. (T-in.1:6-7).

A Course in Miracles does not ask us to focus on trying to understand love's meaning or focus on the "sins" of ourselves or others. We are asked instead to become aware of our deeper beliefs and bring these beliefs

to the Holy Spirit for undoing and correction. We then no longer focus on the thoughts and beliefs that currently prevent us from having a true relationship with Jesus, and instead we can accept God's message for us, and have an unmistakable awareness of the Peace of God.

This is no theoretical concept but an achievable reality right now, in our own lives.

If Jesus says "**your sins have been forgiven you**" (Luke 7:48), and "**...Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin**" (1John) then we must accept this as fact, now. The only way we can do this is by spotting the sin (which Jesus in A Course in Miracles calls 'mistakes') and handing those mistakes to the Holy Spirit, so that he can give us back a new vision of our whole reality and identity as God created us to be. This identity rests behind, or rather below our current beliefs in sin. This is in alignment with the need to purify our perceptions described in the Bible when it says: "**Physician heal thyself**" (Luke 4:23) and "**take first the splinter out of your own eye**" (Luke 6:42). We cannot look on our brothers in Love and as Love, like Jesus did, without also going through this purification process and undoing sin within ourselves.

Clearly, we do not know what we are doing when we make mistakes or "sin". Jesus told us this on the Cross, when he cried out: "**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do**". Importantly, both the Course and the Bible state that it is love and forgiveness that will bring about a true correction for those mistakes. We can trust in correction because we can trust in God and His Holy Spirit. God is an all Loving and Trustworthy God. It says in the Course that "**God is the Strength in which I trust**" (WB 47) and "**God is the Love in which I forgive**" (WB 46). When we love Him, and trust Him, he will make - as it says in the Bible - "**all crooked paths straight**" (Isaiah 45:2).

So when we (or others) focus on the errors of our brothers, or label them as "sinners" or as being "run by the devil", or just plain wrong....that is what A Course in Miracles (as well as modern Psychology) calls **projection**. We have errors in our own minds and we project it onto another and point it out to another, blame another, hate another.... All the while we keep our *own* errors, blame, hate, and unforgiveness away from our awareness. This is not the kind of vigilance Jesus asks for, when he says in the Course: "**Be vigilant only for God and His Kingdom**". When we are "scoping out" where our brother is wrong, it takes us further and further away from the Love and Truth of God, even if we feel right and justified in doing it. We are asked to give total love, and those we find hard to love are our forgiveness opportunities. It even says in the text of A Course in Miracles: "**Whenever you deny a blessing to a brother you will feel deprived, because denial is as total as love.**" (T-7.VII.1:1).

This is why the main message of the Crucifixion, according to A Course in Miracles, is to: "**Teach only love, for that is what you are.**" (T-6.I.13:2). This is saying that Jesus offered forgiveness and love to those who were persecuting him on the Cross. He taught love, in the worst of circumstances. He left us with the message and a command to "**love and forgive our brothers and enemies, for they know not what they do**". We are not asked to demonise others, hate them, ridicule them, or tell them where they are wrong. We are asked to love and forgive, and leave the judgement to our Just God.

I also love the second commandment: "**Love your neighbour the same as you love yourself.**" (Mark 12:31). It says that as you give love, you will receive this same love. Jesus says to give love to everyone, and when we do, we come to know them and love them. There is a similar statement made in the A Course in Miracles, highlighting the power and importance of the Golden Rule: "**To have, give all to all**" (T6:V1) and "**Giving and Receiving are One in Truth.**" (Lesson 108).

This is why for me I am vigilant for "not judging" because when I judge, I've left no room to love or give. It says in the Bible "**Fear not, for I am with you**" (Isaiah 41:10), and Jesus in A Course in Miracles says "**There is nothing to fear**" (WB Lesson 48). The message is clear: fear and judgement are not what is asked *from* us. When we spot either fear or judgement or sin within ourselves or another, it is a sign that we

need to call upon forgiveness for our current mis-perceptions and grievances. Here is a Bible quote to support this understanding even more: **“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Do not judge, and you will not be judged”** (Colossians 3:13).

The Gift of Spirit

It says in the Bible: **“I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”** (Jeremiah 31:33). It is true, God wrote his law on our hearts, where the Holy Spirit is, and where we can hear and follow Him. A Course in Miracles says we can learn to listen ONLY to this voice of the Holy Spirit. According to the Bible, in Acts 2 it said: **“that when He (Jesus) went to be with His heavenly Father, He would send God's Holy Spirit to live in each of them.”** He also said in John:14:12 **“the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do.”**

Since Jesus did indeed leave us with the Holy Spirit, and God wrote His Law on our hearts, it only makes sense, as Jesus said above, that we the people have the ability to do greater works than He (Jesus). When we learn to listen only to the Holy Spirit within, as He did, we are led to an experience of what God is and what Truth is, and then nothing can shake, change or shatter this internal conviction of God's Love. This is the type of conviction and wholeness Jesus needs from us, so that He can best care for our brothers and sisters *through* us.

Of course many people say that the word of God is the literal written word in the Bible, others will say the word of God is written on our hearts (as quoted above). A Course in Miracles supports the latter view, that the word of God is written on our hearts, and that we can learn to listen ONLY to the Holy Spirit, the voice for Love, in all we think, say and do. It requires mind training, and A Course in Miracles provides 365 lessons in the Workbook for Students, to help us to train our mind to hear only the Holy Spirit. But really, the point in doing the Course is to **“forget this world, forget this Course and come wholly empty handed unto your God”** (W 189: 7:5). The point in this prayer is to help us to step back from everything we think we know, including what we are learning through scripture, and come wholly empty-handed unto our God. And God will answer us directly and clear up all confusion, contradiction and uncertainty for good, from the inside out. As mentioned already however, this experience can happen only if we choose to purify our minds and *not* serve two masters. Only the Holy Spirit can take us to this inner experience of Truth and Love. Jesus says in the Bible **“ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else, he will hold to the one, and despise the other, Ye cannot serve God and mammon [ego/devil/human idol].** (Matthew 6:24).

Jesus also says this in A Course in Miracles Text 1: **“Whatever is true is eternal, and cannot change or be changed. Spirit is therefore unalterable because it is already perfect, but the mind can elect what it chooses to serve. The only limit put on its choice is that it cannot serve two masters.”** The Course is saying that we either choose Jesus/Holy Spirit as our master or the belief of Ego (devil/sin) as our master. And what we choose will give us that result, and we will see it everywhere. So according to the Course when we listen to ego, we are listening to the voice that fears and judges and separates and condemns. We are listening to Jesus and the Holy Spirit when we choose to love and forgive and heal and see our brotherhood/sameness. We always have a choice and we can always choose again. This is much like the Prodigal Son parable in the Bible, which describes the unconditional love and forgiveness that a father extended to his son, despite the son having temporarily abandoned the family and squandered his wealth. In other words, we may 'run away' from God, or do "bad things", but He welcomes us all back, with open and loving arms, despite this.

This is expressed beautifully in "The Chosen" series on YouTube in Season 2 with the "Sons of Thunder". They wanted to attack the Samaritans for harming their people in the past and spitting on them in the

present, but what Jesus said to them was, and I am paraphrasing: *“If you think you are any better than them, you are wrong”*. This is the KEY marker of forgiveness. We do not judge our brothers for being different; we see ourselves in our brothers, forgiving the mistakes we see in them and us, and through this forgiveness we can come to know them, love them and welcome them, as indeed God welcomes us. Jesus so beautifully demonstrated this with the Samaritan Woman at the well, and how welcoming and thankful her people were to Jesus, because of how deeply and truly He loved them and welcomed them (despite their sin / different beliefs).

So far, in our first comparison between the Bible and A Course in Miracles, a few similarities have come to light. Both books agree that:

- 1) Jesus was flesh and also a Son of God. He “died” on the cross and was raised from the dead three days later
- 2) The well known Bible commandment, ***“Love your neighbour the same as yourself”*** (Mark 12:31), is also reflected in A Course in Miracles in the passage: ***“Let me know this brother as I know myself.”***(T5:3) Both of which are instructions for us to live by.
- 3) Always abide by the Golden Rule. It is trustworthy and of God. We must trust it and apply it in all situations to the best of our ability.
- 4) We are asked to respond to others through forgiveness and love, first by healing ourselves: ***“Physician heal thyself”*** (Luke 4:23) and ***“The disciples were specifically told to be physicians of the Lord and to heal others. They were also told to heal themselves”*** (T1:MP-27). Once we heal ourselves, and clear our mis-perceptions through the Holy Spirit, Christ will guide us in how to heal and help others to heal.
- 5) Justice is of God. It is part of His character, and thus He is always Just. We can trust all Judgement to Him and His Holy Spirit. We ***“need not judge”*** another or ourselves for anything, ever, but consult the Holy Spirit within with everything.

In Conclusion:

We live in a time on Earth when trouble and difficulties seem overwhelming. Both personally and globally. Perhaps it was ever thus. Trying to change our stressful external situations causes us much pain and confusion, and does not bring us lasting peace or a sense of true meaning. Many, many people are sincerely searching for a path that will help them to find such peace. There are many options available both within the 'religious' domains, and also within the broadly categorised 'new age' domains. Each person will find their own path.

However, two profound and similar thought systems already exist, to provide us with a clear guidance for profound inner (and thus outer) transformation. These are the Bible, and A Course in Miracles.

A Course in Miracles was written by Jesus, and delivered to humanity fifty years ago as a 'scribed text'. The Bible was not written by Jesus, but by a number of writers at various times before (known as the 'Old Testament') and after the life of Jesus (known as the 'New Testament'). In this sense, the Bible was also a 'scribed text'. Both of these texts are profoundly important. Both of them contain practical and clear guidance for how we should think and live.

Of critical importance is the acceptance of the reality of inner guidance, in both the Course, and in the Bible. The guidance is personal and appropriate to each individual, and becomes extremely clear and specific with the dedicated practice of prayer and mind-training techniques, described in both the Course, and in the Bible.

There is much overlap, and some divergent and stark differences, between what we know as mainstream Christianity, and A Course in Miracles. One truth remains: *these two thought systems have profound power to transform our perceptions, transform how we relate to others, and help us to heal on an internal and*

external level.

I commit my life to bringing other people to such a realisation, to see our similarities rather than just our differences, and to embrace the power of a spiritual path that is led by Jesus. We need our brothers and sisters from all faiths to bring their knowledge about Jesus to this process of rediscovery, to join with us in love, happiness and understanding, and to make what A Course in Miracles describes as the final **“journey without distance”**. This is our collective way home and I am grateful to be walking this path with you.