

I Need Do Nothing

⁶³ You still have too much faith in the body as a source of strength. What plans do you make that do not involve its comfort or protection or enjoyment in some way? This makes it an end and not a means in your interpretation, and this ALWAYS means you still find sin attractive. No one accepts Atonement for himself who still accepts sin as his goal. You have thus not met your ONE responsibility. Atonement is not welcomed by those who prefer pain and destruction.

⁶⁴ You have made much progress and are really trying to make some more, but there is one thing you have never done – not for one instant have you utterly forgotten the body. It has faded at times from your sight, but it has not yet completely disappeared. You are not asked to let this happen for more than an instant, yet it is in this instant that the miracle of Atonement happens. Afterwards, you will see the body again, but never quite the same. And every instant that you spend WITHOUT awareness of it gives you a different view of it when you return.

⁶⁵ At no single instant does the body exist at all. It is always remembered or anticipated, but never experienced just NOW. Only its past and future make it seem real. Time controls it entirely, for sin is never present. In any single instant, the attraction of guilt would be experienced as pain and nothing else and would be avoided. It has no attraction NOW. Its whole attraction is imaginary and therefore MUST be thought of in the past or in the future.

⁶⁶ It is impossible to accept the holy instant without reservation unless just for an instant you are willing to see NO past or future. You cannot prepare for it WITHOUT placing it in the future. Release is given you the instant you deserve it. Many have spent a lifetime in preparation and have indeed achieved their instants of success. This course does not attempt to teach more than they learned in time, but it does aim at SAVING time. You are attempting to follow a very long road to the goal you have accepted. It is extremely difficult to reach Atonement by fighting against sin. Nor is a lifetime of contemplation and long periods of meditation aimed at detachment from the body necessary. All such attempts will ultimately succeed because of their purpose. Yet the means are tedious and very time consuming, for all of them look to the FUTURE for release from a state of present unworthiness and inadequacy.

⁶⁷ Your way will be different, not in purpose but in means. A holy relationship is a means of SAVING TIME. One instant spent TOGETHER restores the universe to BOTH of you. You ARE prepared. Now you need but to remember you need do NOTHING. It would be far more profitable now merely to concentrate on this than to consider what you SHOULD do. When peace comes at last to those who wrestle with temptation and fight against the giving in to sin; when the light comes at last into the mind given to contemplation; or when the goal is finally achieved by anyone, it ALWAYS comes with just one happy realization: "I need do nothing."

⁶⁸ Here is the ultimate release which everyone will one day find in his own way, at his own time. We do not need this time. Time has been saved for you because you are together. This is the special means this course is using to save you time. You are not making use of the course if you insist on using means which have served others well, neglecting what was made for YOU. Save time for me by only this ONE preparation and practice, doing nothing else. "I need do nothing" is a statement of allegiance, a truly undivided loyalty. Believe it for just one instant, and you will accomplish more than is given to a century of contemplation or of struggle against temptation.

⁶⁹ To DO anything involves the body. And if you recognise you NEED do nothing, you have withdrawn the body's value from your mind. Here is the quirk and open door through which you slip past centuries of effort and escape from time. This is the way in which sin loses all attraction RIGHT NOW. For here is time denied and past and future gone. Who need do nothing has no need for time. To do nothing is to rest and make a place within you where the activity of the body ceases to demand attention. Into this place the Holy Spirit comes and there abides. He will remain when you forget and the body's activities return to occupy your conscious mind.

⁷⁰ Yet there will always be this place of rest to which you can return. And you will be more aware of this quiet centre of the storm than all its raging activity. This quiet centre, in which you do nothing, will remain with you, giving you rest in the midst of every busy doing on which you are sent. For from this centre will you be directed how to use the body sinlessly. It is this centre, from which the body is absent, that will keep it so in your awareness of it.