

Ownership – How Do We Handle This One?

Ownership is a topic sure to make us bristle a bit, isn't it? Nothing makes an ego stand up and take notice like telling it that what it "owns" must be taken from it in order for it to be "freed"! Why, any self-respecting ego is going to tell you, with a set jaw and a straight face, that ownership is the path to freedom! If we can just stack up enough STUFF around us, be it a house, a car, a yard (with a fence, of course!), some clothes, and obviously a BODY (don't forget the medicines FOR the body), then we will surely be protected from all that lurks OUT THERE...

Clearly, that's not really the answer for protection. So, what are we to do? Does peace and freedom truly come from the process of shedding all of our worldly possessions, vowing never to "own" again? There are some who make this effort, and perhaps they find a degree of peace there. However, my heart views this as a "doing" – something that a body is doing – and it may, or may not, reflect the changed, unified state of mind behind the "doing". Perhaps for some, this "doing" is an exercise of faith with a goal of potentially LEADING to a change in mind.

Fortunately, we are not left without a wealth of Guidance on this topic! Jesus talked quite a bit about ownership, our needs, and how and when our needs will be provided while we continue to believe in this dream. Here is some of what he said, from ACIM:

T-13.VII.10. "Ownership is a dangerous concept if it is left to you. 11 The ego wants to have things for salvation, for possession is its law. 12 Possession for its own sake is the ego's fundamental creed, a basic cornerstone in the churches it builds to itself. 13 And at its altar it demands you lay all of the things it bids you get, leaving you no joy in them."

T-13.VII.11. "Everything the ego tells you that you need will hurt you. 2 For although the ego urges you again and again to get, it leaves you nothing, for what you get it will demand of you. 3 And even from the very hands that grasped it, it will be wrenched and hurled into the dust. 4 For where the ego sees salvation it sees separation, and so you lose whatever you have gotten in its name. 5 Therefore ask not of yourself what you need, for you do not know, and your advice to yourself will hurt you. 6 For what you think you need will merely serve to tighten up your world against the light, and render you unwilling to question the value that this world can really hold for you."

T-13.VII.12. "Only the Holy Spirit knows what you need. 2 For He will give you all things that do not block the way to light. 3 And what else could you need? 4 In time, He gives you all the things that you need have, and will renew them as long as you have need of them. 5 He will take nothing from you as long as you have any need of it. 6 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. 7 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. 8 He knows that you are not at home there, and He wills no delay to wait upon your joyous homecoming."

T-13.VII.13. "Leave, then, your needs to Him. 2 He will supply them with no emphasis at all upon them. 3 What comes to you of Him comes safely, for He will ensure it never can become a dark spot, hidden in your mind and kept to hurt you. 4 Under His guidance you will travel light and journey lightly, for His sight is ever on the journey's end, which is His goal."

This topic falls in line with the question people often ask of, "How do I be in the world, but not OF the world?".

Perhaps it helps to remember that ownership, along with everything else in this dream, is an illusion from the get-go. We've NEVER owned anything, really, EVER. Sure, we may play with things like money and exchanges and deeds, etc., but what are all of those things?? Green paper strips! It's ALL the stuff of the dream. There's nothing to give up – really... In other words, when we say we want to renounce ownership, it's just one little sub-plot along with everything else inside of the ONE DREAM – the dream in which we have cooked up the belief that we could ever possibly be separated from our Creator. There's really only one thing to renounce, and it is THAT belief!

So, given that ownership itself is illusion within illusion, it only hurts us and is "dangerous", as Jesus says, "if it is left to you". (T-13.VII.10) Ownership in and of itself is not a real thing and cannot in and of itself hurt us. If we proclaim that it can, we're making it real and scary and giving it a power it does not deserve. Even Jesus asked that ACIM be copyrighted for thirty years. If we listen to His Guidance, He will tell us what we need and how to make use of it without blocking the light, just as he tells us here:

T-13.VII.12. "Only the Holy Spirit knows what you need. 2 For He will give you all things that do not block the way to light.

While we still believe, in a part of our minds, in this "world experience", it is inevitable that we will "own" things. That is not a "bad" thing provided we are able to see it through Holy Spirit eyes along with Jesus, by way of His Guidance. I DO believe it is indeed possible to feel at peace and simultaneously "own". If I am directed by Jesus to "own" something, I recognize that this is just a step in my path. I do not understand what anything is for through my ego's eyes!

From Lesson 25:

"Another way of describing the goals you now perceive is to say that they are all concerned with "personal" interests. Since you have no personal interests, your goals are really concerned with nothing. In cherishing them, therefore, you have no goals at all. And thus you do not know what anything is for."

Yet I am able to merely surrender to His Guidance and realize that there must be a Higher Purpose to what is transpiring! And what a beautiful thought that is to "own"! :))

From Lesson 55:

(25 review) "I do not know what anything is for. To me, the purpose of everything is to prove that my illusions about myself are real. It is for this purpose that I attempt to use everyone and everything. It is for this that I believe the world is for. Therefore I do not recognize its real purpose. The purpose I have given the world has led to a frightening picture of it. Let me open my mind to the world's real purpose by withdrawing the one I have given it, and learning the truth about it."

Jesus is so very gentle with us. He is not going to force us to renounce all of our "worldly" ways before our fears allow us to. He merely asks us to see them differently – to forgive them and understand they are not real! He asks us to see ourselves as merely characters in the dream,

even though the characters may continue to look upon the dream for a while, participating in the dream for a while, ownership and all – while the lucid dreamer in us steps back with Jesus above the battleground and recognizes it as a dream.

It's alright to accept that we are right here where we are, on a path, yet forever in the Mind of God! At times, I become aware of what feels like a very fine line between living in the dream with Jesus' Guidance and living in the world by way of the ego ATTEMPTING to circumvent the Holy Spirit's Plan with its own "rusty halo" version, cleverly trying to disguise its tactics as Holy Spirit driven. Jesus simply reminds me to continue to listen to Guidance each step of the way. Forgive, watch the mind for any "scraps of meanness" (per the UR text), and hear and respond to the calls for miracle. Most importantly, trust the Guidance as it comes! If Jesus says to buy that house, then buy that house!

As a personal example, we bought the house we are in right now four years ago, and my ego was screaming "NOOOOOOOO!!!"... In my fear state, I even called the closing attorney 20 minutes before the appointment and tried to cancel! However, it turns out that being in that house put us right where we needed to be, positioned close to just the "right" people, for events to transpire which led DIRECTLY to my awakening. Now I am so very thankful that I eventually surrendered and listened to Guidance rather than to my ego about the purchase of the house. And as I said before, nothing was ever really "purchased". What do we "own"? It's ALL illusion! It comes down to a state of mind, where we perhaps think of ourselves as stewards rather than owners, given that nothing is ACTUALLY being OWNED anyway. How could it be? That's like asking how could one person be loved MORE than another? Love mere IS, just as everything is in the Everywhere, in God's Mind, and it is illusion to think it can ever be "mine" or "yours", no matter what games we play with our green paper strips! :)

From lesson 76, "I am under no laws but God's."

Think of the freedom in the recognition that you are not bound by all the strange and twisted laws you have set up to save you. You really think that you would starve unless you have stacks of green paper strips and piles of metal discs. You really think a small round pellet or some fluid pushed into your veins through a sharpened needle will ward off disease and death. You really think you are alone unless another body is with you.