

A Deeper Meaning of Forgiveness

by Cindy Zuker, Fellowshipian

When I heard Gary Renard speak last year, I hadn't quite finished reading *The Disappearance of the Universe* (DU). Went I went to his workshop this year, I had read the book twice and had more about forgiveness to clarify.

My definition of forgiveness has been completely redone since reading *A Course in Miracles* and DU. Gary humorously reminded us that we have to let go of the old style of forgiveness. Forgiveness is not deciding that someone really did something that needs forgiving and that we are "bigger and better" enough to forgive them. Forgiveness is letting go of the idea that anything bad happened at all.

I have a sister who doesn't speak to me and, given the bitterness and regret between us, I don't encourage her. She is now my angel who lets me practice forgiveness — again and again and again. Even so, I was pretty sure it wasn't working — or that I wasn't doing it "correctly." So one of my burning questions for Gary was, "How do you know it's working?"

Gary told me that the Holy Spirit is always at work in us. The undoing of forgiveness is going on in many layers and in many lifetimes. It takes practice and you can't do it wrong if you do it with love. Thank you, Gary.

True peace doesn't depend on what you do or where you do it; it only needs forgiveness. Our path to truth is through experience. Gary reminded us that

words are symbols of symbols that will never fill us up. There is only experience — the experience of God. Forgiveness is a thought process. At first you use words. After awhile, the words fall away and there is only experience.

It doesn't matter if you don't feel like you've forgiven the person. Forgiveness is still working in you. You're releasing guilt and getting in touch with your own innocence and happiness. Eventually, nothing can upset you. You find salvation through forgiveness, but you must be willing to do the work, to have the experience.

Like many of us, I often feel stuck in illusion, as though I will never know truth. Gary assured us that while truth is not in this dream, we can still hear it and be guided to it. Thank God! When we wake a young boy who's having a bad dream, we do it gently and slowly so as not to startle him. When the child wakes up, he realizes that he never left his bed. He only had a bad dream.

The Holy Spirit whispers to us so that we can slowly wake up. We travel in dreams but, like the young boy, we really don't go anywhere. The only way out of the dream is to wake up. The Holy Spirit is whispering to us.