



## The Women Masters Interview with Marianne Williamson

AMY: Welcome to the Women Masters fall teleseminar expert call with—drum roll, please—Marianne Williamson. Hooray! Are you ready to get inspired? I hope so. My name is Amy Ahlers for those of you who don't know me. I'm the Wake-up Call Coach and I'm the creator of the Women Masters teleseminar series and the CEO of Wake-up Call Coaching. My vision for this series is for people from all over the world to get access to the most respected and inspiring women experts of our time, so that each and every one of you on this call can be inspired and be motivated, and stay motivated and stay connected to your inner wisdom, to source energy, to god, the universe, and I want all of you on today's call to wake-up and step even more into your power and genius. Let's just take another deep breath real quick and stop multi-tasking if you can, and I honor all of you that can't, but if you can take a moment right now to drink in the wisdom of Marianne Williamson.

I know that probably every single person on this call knows Marianne and her amazing work. She is an internationally acclaimed spiritual teacher. Her latest book, The Age of Miracles hit number two on the New York Times bestseller list. She has nine other titles, four of them, including A Return to Love, were number one New York Times bestsellers. A Return to Love is really considered a must read of the new spirituality, and I have to add another must read is A Woman's Worth. Both of these books changed my life and I just have been re-reading them in preparation for our call, and they are life changing, life changing books, as I know The Age of Miracles is. I know that there's a paragraph from A Return to Love that begins Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate; our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It's something that Nelson Mandela also said in his inaugural address and it's really considered an anthem for a contemporary generation of seekers like every single person on this call today. So it is truly my deep, heartfelt honor, Marianne, to welcome you to our call today, so welcome, Marianne.

MARIANNE: Thank you, Amy, that was so sweet; I appreciate that. I do need to say one thing if I might. Unfortunately Nelson Mandela did not quote that paragraph. It's a huge urban myth.

AMY: Oh really?

MARIANNE: I know. I would certainly be honored if he had and I would be bragging about it, I'm sure, but he didn't.

AMY: Oh my goodness, so that's why the misattribution happens so often, is because he actually didn't credit you.

MARIANNE: Well no, the misattribution we don't know how it got out there, the idea that . . . well I think what happened was first of all I have no idea how it got out that that paragraph was from his address, but then even when the words started getting out that it wasn't from his address people said oh, then he quoted it, and now it's like well no, he actually didn't.



AMY: Oh my gosh, I'm so glad that you clarified it because I have to tell you, Marianne, after I booked you I sent out the quote and I got, I think, like five e-mails from people saying that's not Marianne Williamson's words, and it was really funny to me because I actually had a friend that called me five times, saying can you take back the e-mail, oh my gosh your credibility is blown, and I was like no, Marianne Williamson said that.

MARIANNE: Yes the interesting thing about that, though, If you think about it, when people would say to me . . . well first of all, many years ago when all of this would come up, and I also have to tell you, I'm at a hotel where there is a cordless phone, but I'm hearing a little beep as though the energy's going down. If you lose me I will just call you back from my cell phone, so just know.

AMY: If you get cut out then we'll deal for a moment.

MARIANNE: Yes because there's no cord landline here. I'm so sorry, but if you lose me I'll be right back.

AMY: Okay.

MARIANNE: Anyway, yes, the interesting thing about that, of course, when it first happened, my book came out in '92 and his speech was in '94, so when I would tell people it was such an interesting way that people responded, like the woman that you mentioned. When people argue with me about this I always point out, don't you think that if Nelson Mandela had quoted me I would be more than excited and honored; why would I argue that he didn't? You know what I'm saying?

AMY: Right.

MARIANNE: So, anyway.

AMY: Wow. That's a really fascinating thing, isn't it?

MARIANNE: Yes but it's out there on the internet now enough that it was a misattribution, so you can tell your friend that she can check it out.

AMY: Well I did. I responded, actually, personally, or myself or my assistant, to every person, and said actually it is her, and every single person wrote back and said I didn't know, oh my gosh.

MARIANNE: Yes.

AMY: Well let's talk about that quote for a moment because I'm curious, did you know when you wrote that of the anthem that you were writing for.



MARIANNE: No. You know, that book, I always say did you like the book; if you liked the paragraph you'll love the book because the book has a lot of paragraphs in it. What excites people about . . .

AMY: Okay, I have a feeling Marianne's going to call back in a moment; yes, she's going to call back in a moment. Hilarious. We love technology when it works, don't we? So while we dance for a moment, actually while we wait, I just want to read something from A Woman's Worth, Marianne's book. She says in A Woman's Worth, There is a collective force rising up on the earth today, an energy of the reborn feminine. She is peaking around corners, taking over businesses, tucking in the children and making men go wild in every way. She knows us at our source. She is not, as we are not, lacking in virtue. She remembers our function on earth, that we should love one another. She has come to reclaim us. She has come to take us home.

That is a beautiful quote from the amazing Marianne Williamson, from A Woman's Worth. Marianne are you back with us? No, it doesn't look like she's back yet, okay. So as we wait for Marianne to come back on the line I just want each and every person on this call right now to close your eyes if you're somewhere where you can close your eyes. Marianne's phone has gone dead in her hotel room, so she'll call back in a moment, and I want everyone to just close their eyes for a minute and just imagine a golden light coming down from the sky. With this golden light it touches your forehead, and as it begins to dance on top of your forehead it releases any and all stress. It brings you down and it goes down into the core of your being and allows you to get in contact with that light from within. It begins oozing down your forehead, releasing any and every bit of tension, down your eyes, down your jaw, releasing any tension on your jaw, and down your neck and your shoulders, and each and every vertebrae of your back, all the way down to your fingers, down, down, down your stomach, your hips and your pelvis, all the way down through your thighs and your knees, until you're completely and utterly encapsulated by this golden light. I want you to just remember that this golden light is with you at all times, as it floats down into the ground and into the core of the earth.

With that I'm sure Marianne will be back with us in a moment. Actually what I'm going to do is I'm going to actually go ahead and put us into . . .

MARIANNE: I'm here, Amy. I am so sorry. It took me a minute to get back on; I am so sorry.

AMY: Oh my gosh it's okay, it's okay.

MARIANNE: Can you hear me alright, because I'm talking to you from an iPhone now.

AMY: You're beautiful; it's perfect, yes. Actually what I did, Marianne, just so you know, while you were gone is I read a quote from A Woman's Worth, that was just beautiful, about the divine feminine.

MARIANNE: Oh thank you, thank you.



- AMY: We just did a little visualization, so everybody is here and present and ready to hear from you.
- MARIANNE: Cool. Well just to finish what we were saying, A Return to Love, I always jokingly say that A Return to Love is like the Cliff Notes of A Course in Miracles, so that paragraph that you referred to, I can't take credit for that paragraph even though I did write it. The idea that people love, the idea that it's not your darkness but your light that frightens you, is a principle from A Course in Miracles, and that's what the book is, it's just a discussion of those principles, so I understand what excites people about that concept because I'm as excited about it as they are.
- AMY: Yes, so talk to us. I wanted you to talk to us a bit about A Course in Miracles and what it is, the impact that it's had on your life and just a little bit about the influence, if you will.
- MARIANNE: Let me begin by saying that I think that there is only one Truth, with a capital T, and it's spoken in many different ways, different religions, different philosophies, different psychological training, so I'm not a student or a coach, as it were, in the ideas in A Course in Miracles because I think it's the best path or the only path. It just happens to be the path for me and I believe that we are living in a time where people understand the universality of spiritual themes; that's what the course is. It's not a religion, it is a psychological training based on universal, spiritual themes, and the heart of the course is the concept of forgiveness, letting go of fear, the fear that dominates the thought system of this world, and accepting and embracing instead a thought system based on love. In those places in our lives where we have been freed from the bondage, the psychological and emotional bondage that fear has placed on us, and the energy is free to love, the idea here is that miracles occur naturally where love is present. So it's a psychological mind training based on universal, spiritual themes, and I'm actually going to be doing a coaching, as it were, daily for people who feel . . . it's got 365 days worth of meditations \_\_\_\_\_ of the course, so if any of your listeners are interested in going through it every day with me, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, then people should just stay tuned to my website because I will be doing the course from the beginning, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- AMY: Oh my gosh that is huge. So they can sign up for that at Marianne.com
- MARIANNE: \_\_\_\_\_ first time I've talked about it publicly but we've decided to do it, so it'll be on there.
- AMY: It'll be on there sometime. I know in the meantime, as people wait, run, don't walk to Marianne's website to sign up for the Miracle Matrix, which is live right now. It's really Marianne's gift to everybody on this call, that you get the first 30 days for free in that program, and it's only \$19.95 a month and you get an audio download of a lecture each week, and video downloads and live teachings and teleclasses. It's an amazing program, so I really want to recommend that everybody go and check that out at Marianne.com.
- Marianne how do you define a miracle?



MARIANNE: Well the Course in Miracles defines a miracle as a shift in perception from fear to love. Let's say I have . . . the Course in Miracles says that there are only two emotions, love and fear, that all negative emotions are derived from fear, and that the relationship of fear to love is the same as the relationship of darkness to light. Darkness isn't a thing, it's the absence of something. When you turn on the light the darkness disappears, and the same is true with fear. Fear is just the absence of love. If in any situation you . . . if the situation's not working, if it's causing you upset, then you look to the place where you are in fear, which is, as I said, all negative emotions are based in fear. Let's say this concept. The Course in Miracles says you can have a grievance or you can have a miracle, you cannot have both. Now that's pretty powerful. In any situation, let's say I'm upset with a person, I'm upset with them, and my Ego mind is saying if I'm upset with that person because they didn't behave the way I wanted them too, they behaved in a way that wasn't what I wanted, so the Course in Miracles says the problem here is not what they did. You think that you're upset because of what they did or what they didn't do. What actually happened here was that you had an attachment to another human being behaving the way you thought they should. The problem here is not in their behavior, the problem here is your attachment to other people being who you think they should be. Your problem here is your effort to control another human being's behavior, so it's your lovelessness. It's not their lovelessness that's the problem here, it's your lovelessness, and as you see that and say the problem here is my grievance, the problem here is my trying to say how the world should be, and I give that up, I am willing to see this differently, I am willing to surrender this. Then that shift right there, from fear to love . . . first of all, all minds are joined, so they energetically felt the shift, on a subconscious level, the moment I made it; that's number one.

Number two \_\_\_\_\_ . . . well first of all they did, but number two, in addition to that, my whole energy towards them is different as of this moment, and between that shift, the shift that I have made in my mind, so that my energy is different, which means any behavior in the future will be different, but even mainly on that level of mind, where we're all one, all the trajectories of probability are now shifted from upset, grievant, distant, withholding, annoyance, relationships that don't work, anger, all the probability vectors were shifted from that to love, breakthrough, goodness. Now it might be that when that person didn't behave a certain way—they crossed a boundary or didn't live up to a standard—that's fine, but even then all that would mean is that because you are no longer attached you could walk away more easily if that's what's meant to happen. So that's what a miracle is, it's those shifts inside our own thinking that completely shift the pattern of probability in the universal order.

AMY: I love it, so I just want to invite everybody on this call for a moment to just take a look. Where in your life are you feeling that sense of upset or grievance? How can you, right here in this moment—why not, why not right now—why not take a moment right now to see how you can do that shift, how you can experience a miracle, how you can experience a shift in your perceptions from fear to love. It's so perfect, Marianne, because I asked people that they could e-mail me questions for you, and I have two questions that are right on target with this, so I'll state them now. One is from Lisa in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She says that she has a sad, jealous, resentful little sister who's actually 50 years



old, and that she's very abusive, and she beats them up emotionally and she's getting ready to go and spend the holidays with her, and she doesn't know what to do and she wanted your advice on that.

MARIANNE: There's a line in A Course in Miracles which says only what you are not giving can be lacking in any situation. Only what you are not giving can be lacking in any situation. It's interesting but what the Course in Miracles would say for this woman is that the problem, at the deepest level, is that she is not okay with her sister being jealous and resentful.

AMY: Right.

MARIANNE: Now it sounds counterintuitive but think about this. The issue is the younger sister is being \_\_\_\_\_, abusive, blah, blah, blah. To the extent to which we are attached to her not being that way, to that extent, we are \_\_\_\_\_ the effect of her being that way. Like I said that's counterintuitive, because you think it's when you do a big resistance of it that you are \_\_\_\_\_ the effect but it's the opposite. As the Course in Miracles says, the jailor is bound to the jail as the person who is jailed is. They can't leave the jail, either. If you say, you know, she is who she is, and God I am willing to take the part in me, because if you look at Jesus or Buddha or any enlightened master, how they looked at her little sister, if you said okay, Buddha, tell me how you see her, or Jesus, you tell me how you see her, the enlightened master would go, I like her. They wouldn't be disturbed. This situation tells you . . . the woman's name is Lisa, you said, who wrote this question?

AMY: Lisa, yes.

MARIANNE: Okay, so Lisa this situation exists for you in your life as an opportunity for you to see the gap, which is the only reason anything happens. What is the gap between you and the enlightened master that you are destined to become? The gap is that you're not okay with your sister being exactly as she is, so then it becomes dear God, heal me. The miracle worker, the primary responsibility of the miracle worker, is to accept the atonement or the correction of perception for themselves, to stop pointing the finger at the other person—oh, this is about her being resentful, or her being abusive—no, this is about me not being okay with that. Now she's going to see her at Thanksgiving. She's a family member, which is what the Course in Miracles would call a lifetime assignment. So what I would recommend that Lisa do now is to begin right now a 30 day vigil, praying for her sister's happiness, just praying for her happiness. Thirty days, just pray for her happiness every morning and try to stay in that mode, if you can, for five minutes, with an image of God / Jesus / light / angels, whatever works for you, just pouring forth light and radiant happiness on her sister. This lifts Lisa above the level where she is at the effect of this behavior. That's the real problem. The problem is not that the sister is emotionally abusive or resentful or anything like that. The problem is that Lisa is at the effect of that behavior and that's the miracle.

AMY: Thank you so much, Marianne, and I want to invite everybody on this call, because I know that everybody that is listening in right now has someone that could use that 30 day vigil, that prayer for happiness, so take whomever in your life right now is driving you the most



crazy, or the person that you're feeling the most negative emotion towards, and shift that \_\_\_\_\_ into that prayer . . .

MARIANNE: Right and when you pray you say God . . . oh, I'm sorry; forgive me.

AMY: No, go.

MARIANNE: Well I didn't mean to interrupt; I'm sorry. There's a part in the Course in Miracles where it says, figure out what are you thinking about a person that God would not be thinking, and think what God is thinking about that person that you are not thinking, and that becomes the prayer—may I think like God; may I see the innocence in that person; may I appreciate the pain in that person; may I be lifted to divine compassion in that person, which is beyond what my Ego mortal mind can perceive. The prayer is always for the correction of our own thinking.

AMY: This brings me to Janine's question, who is suffering from severe depression and feeling quite suicidal sometimes, and that she's prayed and prayed for God's help. Her question is, why hasn't God helped me?

MARIANNE: I want to say two things. First of all if this person is talking about severe clinical depression I certainly hope that she will get professional help.

AMY: And she has. She says that all medicines, even the strongest, have failed her.

MARIANNE: Okay, alright. Then having said that let me say this. Even the language—medicine has failed me, God hasn't helped me—I would say to this person, with all due respect, that she herself has a great responsibility here for her own healing. I remember when I went to a psychiatrist many years ago in a devastating time of loss in my life, and I remember his saying to me, if this was a physical illness perhaps I could just give you medicine, and you could take it and then that would be that. He said, but this is an emotional problem you have, so you're going to have to help me; you're going to have to be part of this healing. That is very much in line with the ideas in teachings like the Course. When Janine says I have prayed to God, you know, God himself will not violate the building blocks of the universe. The building block of the universe, as God has created it, in the West is called the Law of Cause and Effect, and in the East it's called karma. What it basically means is that thinking is the level of cause and our experience of life is the level of effect. We can't pray to God to change the effect if we're not willing to work with him in the changing of the thinking, the cause, so God's spirit works with us on the level of cause. In other words you can't say dear God, I hate so-and-so, I resent so-and-so, I'm jealous of so-and-so, but please make me happy. It rather is dear God, I am willing to be happy, please show me; I am willing to see those places in myself where I withhold love, because I know that that's the only way I can be happy, is if my love is released, so please send your teacher, your teaching to enter into my thought system, so that these fear-based energies within me, these emotional patterns where I withhold love consistently and on a subconscious level, may they be detoxed from me. So Janine, in that sense, needs a teaching. Mine is a course in miracles; some people work with Alcoholics Anonymous; some people work with



Buddhism, Judaism, Kabbalah, Esoteric Christianity. The form of the teaching is not what matters. The issue is that you allow yourself to be taught. If Janine, I join with her, and I don't know if she's on the call, but I join with her now and I know that there are other people on the call who feel the same way as well. I do pray in my heart that she be comforted and that she find peace, and I see the hand of God upon her, and we join with her in asking for the perfect form of teacher / teaching that will allow her and teach her and guide her in the change inside herself, that will allow her to find freedom and peace at last. And so it is; amen.

AMY: I know—Marianne, thank you so much for that—I know that you talk a lot about relaxing and surrendering, as does A Course in Miracles. I know that there's so many people on the call right now, maybe there in some sort of crisis, whether it's financial or a career or a spiritual or a relationship, and the thought of relaxing and surrendering may feel very far away, and I'm hoping you can talk with us a bit about the process of surrender.

MARIANNE: There's a line in the Course in Miracles where it says, With every thought you are either host to God or either hostage to the Ego, and a state of crisis is by definition a place where we are hostage to the Ego. The Ego is saying it's terrible, I'll never get a job again, I don't have any money, there's a recession, he doesn't love me, I'll never be loved again, my body isn't healthy. Oh my God that's a wrinkle that wasn't there yesterday. It's always something, right? Well the idea here is that the circumstances are not actually the issue. The issue is our interpretation of the circumstances and our interpretation of the circumstances is based on a belief in scarcity, that the lack that we see is a permanent condition, a non-changeable condition, a random condition, a condition over which we have no control, et cetera. So once again, much like when we were talking about with Janine, you can't exit this by yourself because the entire thought system of the world is based on this thinking, so when there's a real crisis within the mortal world—which this economic recession is, it is a crisis in mortal, three dimensional terms—in order for us rise above, in order for us to achieve that level of thinking whereby we are freed to miraculous breakthrough and outcome, it takes daily practice. It takes a retraining of our attitudinal muscle. Just like you go to the gym every day, or a few times a week, and you are building your muscles so that where you were weak you could now be strong, well the same with your mind, with your attitude, with your emotions, and that \_\_\_\_\_ book's like A Course in Miracles; I'm not trying to sell the course but any serious path is about. That's why you meditate, that's why you pray, that you are literally changing the patterns of energy that you have been taught, and instead achieving patterns of energy that look at a recession differently, look at age differently, look at age differently, look at your body differently, look at other people differently, look at relationships differently, and because we look at them differently we then experience them differently.

AMY: I know that your . . . well maybe this would be a good point, actually, for you to talk a little bit about the event in LA and about the role of the feminine and about . . . obviously this series is called the Women Masters because I believe the world is hungry, specifically for feminine wisdom right now, and feminine energy. I know that that's very much in line with your teachings and your writing. Tell us a little bit about the event and where you see the



role of the feminine right now in healing what's going on in the world and what's going on even in our own lives.

MARIANNE: I saw a documentary many years ago—not too many but several years ago—that was made by the Canadian Film Board. It was their Women and Spirituality series and one of them . . . it was these three films, and one of them was called *The Burning Times*, and *The Burning Times* is about the witch burnings during the Inquisition, about the way that a pagan culture, in which women were so empowered as priestesses of sorts, who kept alive within every village . . . there were these women called the witches, which meant wise woman, and the wise women were the healers and they were the midwives and they were the herbalists and they were the ones who performed ceremony and ritual that kept the people in a sense of divine, personal connection with the rocks and the trees and the sky and the earth, et cetera. Now the early church, the witch burnings were an effort by the early church to systematically eradicate that entire culture because it was a war. It was a war against passionate, free thinking women because passionate, free thinking women raise passionate, free thinking women children. Passionate, free thinking children grow up to be passionate, free thinking adults who are very difficult to manipulate and almost impossible to control. We now know that possibly several hundred thousand, up to 800,000, women were burned at the stake during the so-called witch burnings. It was a female holocaust. Now this was several hundred years ago but if you think about it the fact that this went on for almost 300 years created a situation where generation after generation, women and men would raise their daughters to be as bland as possible, in order to be safe, in order for no one to accuse them of witchcraft. That was the beginning of the quiet. I'm doing a seminar and a conference and it begins with that. The first session is called *Why We Went Quiet*, where we will talk about what has happened, both historically and in our own personal lives, to suppress the voice that is most genuinely us. This seminar is called *Sister Giant: Rousing the Sleeping Giant of American Womanhood*. Then in the second session we're going to watch an HBO special called *Iron Jawed Angels*, about the women's suffrage movement, which will give us a historical context, as American women, for what has been done already, where American women have come. In the beginning we had no rights, we could not vote, we could not own property. Even if you had an abusive husband or even violently abusive husband, if you left the house he got the children. You could leave the house with no property even if you'd gone into the marriage with property. You could leave with whatever clothes were on your back and one small suitcase but your children stayed with him. Then there was a women's suffrage movement. Now we have come to a point where even though there are still things to do in the external world to transform and to make right, for the most part women have extraordinary power in the United States today, but both individually and collectively we are not expressing it as we might. When you look at the state of the world today, the difference that American women could make is staggering. I am partnering on a project with an organization called RESULTS, which is the most effective anti-hunger \_\_\_\_\_, and it's founder Sam Daley-Harris actually brought Muhammad Yunus, the founder of Microcredit, to the United States.

AMY: Marianne I'm going to interrupt you just for a moment because you cut out for a moment about RESULTS and I just wanted to make sure that was heard.



MARIANNE: Okay, how is this now; am I okay now?

AMY: Yes, you just cut out for a moment.

MARIANNE: Okay. We have 16,000 children on this planet who die of hunger every day. Every four seconds a child dies of hunger. We have 75 million children, at least, that do not have access to even an elementary school education, which is absolutely proven to be the greatest tool assisting people out of poverty, particularly when girls are educated. So if American women behave in a collective fashion to help right this wrong, extraordinary energy would be released. The climax of this seminar / conference is learning about a conference that will be taking place in Kenya, April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup> of next year, a regional conference about Microcredit. One of the things women will hear about at Sister Giant is if you're interested let's go to Kenya and make a mark, and be American women at this conference, being part of this unified field that I think really is coming up from the bottom of things all over the world, of people with not only a higher level of consciousness but a higher level of commitment to actually acting in a way that helps shift the probability vectors of the entire history of the planet as we know it now.

AMY: Wow.

MARIANNE: So I'm excited about that. That will be held sometime towards the end of February. I think it will probably be the last weekend in February but once again check my website. All these things will be posted on Marianne.com, but we're making final touches on everything before we actually post them.

AMY: Right and that will be in Los Angeles?

MARIANNE: Yes it will and thank you for giving me the opportunity, Amy, to talk about it.

AMY: Yes and I just love it because I know that there's . . . the majority of the people on the call today are women, and a shout out to all you enlightened men that are on the call as well, and I just know that there's such a hunger and such a sisterhood that is bubbling up right now, and I'm wondering for you, Marianne, how do you see us coming together more as women. Obviously coming to the event with you, I know that you'll speak about this, but just give us some tips on this call right now of how we can sink deeper into that and get out of any of that cattiness or jealousy or comparison that we can often go into as women.

MARIANNE: Well in the wave of feminism that surged in the 1970s it was very recognized that feminism and sisterhood went together. There was a great realization that none of us would get there until all of us got there, and there was a real emphasis on that. In the last few years \_\_\_\_\_ well taken. In the last few years there has been this sense that the ideal was for women to get our power and do what we wanted to do, but there has been less of a concentration on that aspect of sisterhood, and I think with that issue it's like every issue, you heal by noticing—you heal by noticing. It's like this big a-ha. A girlfriend of mine, a younger woman who's like a sister to me, I can't even remember exactly what she said. We were sitting having a drink somewhere a few weeks ago and she made some comment



about women. She's this glorious woman herself and I said, did you hear what you just said, that slam against women? She said, well I do know women who are like that. I said, well we can talk about any people and talk about their shadow elements, but any time you make a comment like that represents those people, that's racist or that's anti-Semitic or that's homophobic. You've got to watch your words because your words are powerful, and she got that. It was a good moment but it was one of those things where you just don't even think about it, and cattiness towards other women, jealousy towards other women, so that's a big part of it. We're either going to get there together or we are not going to get there.

AMY: Yes.

MARIANNE: But I have to tell you I think this is a momentous moment on the planet. I think the challenges are obvious, the urgency is obvious, the critical nature of our problems is obvious, \_\_\_\_\_ of forces of darkness are obvious; all that is true. But at the same time I think that the rising in more enlightened consciousness and more sense of global compassion, and the technology to support it, is also true. All of us, on any given day, are tempted by malaise, by the economic recession. You know you certainly have these forces in the world that will drag you down if you let them, but that's exactly what we were talking about earlier on the call. Through meditation, through prayer you shift those attitudinal muscles and you become part of the solution, and therein lies meaning and peace and hope and excitement, and a sense that you're part of this new birth rather than just being at the effect of a world that is obviously dying.

AMY: I'm going to shift the phone system over to Q&A mode so everyone's going to hear that shift. Questions for Marianne, we're going to take about fifteen minutes of questions here. You can press \*6 then 1 on your phone and you can get into the queue to ask her a question. While people are queuing up I just wanted to ask you, Marianne, what are the miracles that you're currently asking for right now, for the world as well as for yourself?

MARIANNE: Well I think the miracle I want for the world is the same set of miracles everybody is asking for, that we find a way to settle our conflicts without war, that we avoid nuclear catastrophe, that we avoid climate catastrophe. We are like the Titanic heading towards the iceberg and the iceberg could take various forms, from whether to nuclear warfare to . . . there are just so many ways disaster could strike, so the miracle I pray for, for the world, is to turn the ship around in time. The miracle . . . there's a profound interface, which we'll be talking about at the Sister Giant conference. There's a profound interface between our need for personal transformation and \_\_\_\_\_ transformation. In those places where we are still stuck that's the extent to which we're limited in our ability to help free the world. When you ask me what are the personal miracles I pray for, the personal miracles I pray for is help in those places where I know I still hold grievances towards people, where I know that I still need to forgive, the places where I am looking at myself, seeing my own pettiness or taking things too personally or making it about me. You start cleaning out the clutter in the back of your closet, and those are the miracles I'm asking for. Like anybody else . . . when I practice what I preach my life works pretty well, so I'm doing what everybody I know is doing, I'm looking at those places where my life might not be at 100% and I'm identifying



what is it that . . . where is it in me that I'm refusing to love others in a way that is unconditional, and those are the miracles I'm praying for within myself. I've identified a few of those places but you know it's interesting sometimes you identify it and still you have a lot of resistance to letting it go. So I'm going through the same process everyone else is.

AMY: Yes. Thank you for that. Okay I'm going to move to the first question and when you hear your phone un-muted you'll know that it's you. Hi there.

MARCIE: Well I'm just going to jump in. This is Marcie and hi. Thank you both so much for hosting this call. In regards to watching your words I was totally with you, Marianne, when you were talking about what we can do, and then you said a world that is obviously dying, and I just went oh. Is it obviously dying, like in what way? That's such a powerful statement.

MARIANNE: I'm so glad that you gave me the opportunity to address that, thank you. I did not mean the world is dying as in like the world is ending. The world \_\_\_\_\_ that I meant, I was talking about a world being born and a world dying so thank you for letting me clear that up. The world that's dying is not the world itself. The world that's dying is the world of fear, the world order in which fear now dominates. What we're experiencing on the earth today is a kind of death rattle of an old order, the sunset effect, where the sun seems most bright right before it goes down, so the world that's dying is a world that needs to die. It's like when you become sober and the addictive personality within you dissolves and fades away, so thank you for giving me that opportunity. That's what I meant. I didn't mean the world ending, I meant an old order in which fear takes precedence over love is what is dying.

MARCIE: Great, super. I'm totally with you, then. Thank you for clarifying.

MARIANNE: Yes, thank you. Thank you so much, I'm so glad you said that; thank you.

AMY: Thank you so much. Okay, moving to our next question.

ELAINE: Hi. This is Elaine.

AMY: Hi, Elaine.

ELAINE: Hi. First of all, Marianne, I think you're so awesome and I used to go in Santa Monica when you spoke in a little church, I think on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and hear you live. I would like to know how one goes about forgiving themselves, in terms of regretting the past or how you may have sabotaged yourself in the past. For instance, a small example, I thought oh, I should have gone to that church more often when Marianne was . . .

MARIANNE: That's so sweet.

ELAINE: That's a little example but I have just hundreds of things like that where I go oh, if I'd only done this, if I'd only done that.



MARIANNE: Yes. Well yes, that church was on 18<sup>th</sup> and Arizona, I remember it well, and starting in the beginning of January I'm going to be lecturing every Tuesday night in LA again, so if that's of interest to you that's one way you can make up for your past, but obviously that was a very small thing.

Two things I want to say. First of all I don't know if you've seen my book, The Age of Miracles. That's the last book I wrote, about as we get older—I don't know how old you are, but you're not too young if you were going to those—that book has a lot to do with that, the idea of the remorse and the regret that we feel as we get older and we look at mistakes that will have an effect for the rest of this lifetime, things that we will not be able to go back and do again, so that book might be something you'd want to look at.

More fundamentally, however, I want to talk about your question in terms of the ideas of A Course in Miracles. The Course in Miracles says that miracles basically work retroactively, so what the Course teaches us to do . . . if you look at the Catholic religion, in Catholicism they have confession every day, sort of as you go along, and in Judaism, in the Jewish religion, there is the holiest day of the year, is called Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, where you go back over every mistake that you've made that year and ask that it, in effect, be cancelled. In Alcoholics Anonymous the whole program is a program of amends, where the idea is very central that you make amends, where the idea is very central that you make amends for mistakes that you've made. Now this universal spiritual theme is so important because the psychological meaning of this act is that you kind of perform a kind of cosmic reset button. That's the meaning in the Bible; God will return to you the years that the locust have eaten. The years that the locust have eaten means the mess that the Ego made of your life. God will bring all that back. He will cancel the effect as long as you go back to the mistakes that you made and you own them, and you acknowledge them, and you take what is called in AA that fearless moral inventory, and you make amends where it's possible to make amends, and you clean it up. When you do that then a miracle happens. There's the story of the prodigal son in the Bible where the father is happier to see the son who returned and came back than to see the son who never left. The same is in nature; when you break a bone and the bone grows back together the bone is actually stronger than it was before it was broken. So that's what happens in our lives. It's when we realize that even though we did make mistakes we can be now, having owned the mistake, having asked forgiveness for the mistake, we can become now more humble, because we did make that mistake. We can become, in a way, our lives can take on even greater stature because we did atone for our mistakes and we're better people now. All of us do make mistakes but this is one of the most profound issues involved in true spiritual healing is the realization that, as the course says over and over, you are as God created you. No mistake you've ever made changed the essential nature about you. No mistake you ever made, made you less lovable to God, and when you acknowledge the mistake and own it and atone for it, then you will be able to experience about yourself something that God has always known, which is you are innocent, you are lovable, and in that moment you simply did not know how to do better and get your needs met. It was not a sin he punishes you for and he doesn't want you to punish yourself for it, it was a mistake to be corrected, it was an error to be healed, and when you approach it with that perspective then that miracle does happen.



ELAINE: Well thank you, but see I really like what you're saying about the mess that the Ego made of your life and I think of life as one big mistake, like Bruce Springsteen said our life was one long emergency, and I am Jewish and I am in AA, so I've done the four steps several times, and obviously on Yom Kippur the atonement, so to hold on and to be . . . I feel like is there no end to grieving. I've acknowledged the mistakes and really they're mostly towards myself, where I've compromised myself and undermined opportunities and so forth in relationships, so that holding on, is The Age of Miracles, is that the book you talked about.

MARIANNE: Yes. You know, this business about how long you grieve, in Christianity there is the notion of the three days between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, and in Judaism there's the notion of the 40 years after Moses took the Israelites, before they made it to the Promised Land. In both of those religions there is a fundamental acknowledgment that there is time between the darkness and the light, but as I said to a rabbi friend of mine one day who was going through something, I said you know, Rabbi, it's 40 years, not 60 years, so there comes a point when you recognize the laws. There are laws of consciousness; you're not unique in that sense, so one of two things is happening. Either you haven't owned everything fully . . . well one of three things is happening. Number one, you have not yet done all your work and owned everything fully. Number two, the three days, 40 years, whatever symbol you wish to use, of your grieving if simply not over yet, or number three, you've gotten in the habit of holding on to it and only you can answer that question.

ELAINE: And if you're in the habit then would this Age of Miracles . . .

MARIANNE: Then you ask God to take away that habit because of course the Ego would love for you to just stay angry. The Ego doesn't care who you attack, whether it's other people or yourself, as long as there's somebody to \_\_\_\_\_, the Ego's happy.

ELAINE: Okay, great, that's very helpful. Can I just ask this—are you available for any kind of personal coaching or is there a way . . .

MARIANNE: You know I think that I want to start doing something where maybe I'll be . . . the kind of personal coaching you're asking for, actually, is kind of like usually if it's only life or death, or somebody in serious crisis, who's really been doing the course, I make myself available, but other than that, most of the things that people ask me about, if they're really doing the course themselves they got the answer. Beyond that the ones where I tend to make myself available is just somebody . . . a girl is deciding whether or not to have an abortion or a couple in serious crisis or, you know, there are people who are going through serious crises and truly awful things in their lives, and of course I will make myself available for that. But other than that, usually it's a better use of my time and talent to actually write the book that somebody could read. You know what I'm saying?

ELAINE: Yes.

MARIANNE: Or point someone to actually doing the course and in your case, like I said, I'm going to be lecturing again on Tuesday nights in LA.



ELAINE: But I'm not in Los Angeles anymore; it's one of my regrets, that I'm not in Los Angeles anymore.

MARIANNE: Well you pick up the book and you just pick up the course. Just pick up the course you'll be fine.

ELAINE: Okay.

AMY: Thank you so much.

ELAINE: Thank you.

MARIANNE: Thank you.

AMY: I'm going to move on to one more question here.

MELODY: Hi, Marianne, it's Melody in Tarzana, California.

MARIANNE: Hi, Melody.

MELODY: It's great to hear your voice again and I'm urging you passionately to do a women's series in Los Angeles again. I was just thinking of the church off Hollywood Boulevard when you would do those Sunday afternoons and they were so overwhelmingly enlightening. Even at the time I remember thinking oh, I don't have kids, how does this relate to me, but now that I'm a mother, thinking back on all of the women that were talking about little kids that lived next door to them, that said you were my mommy once . . . all those great epiphanies that they had. Oh my goodness, bowled me over. My question is . . .

MARIANNE: Well I'm going to be doing the Sister Giant and that's going to be all about women.

MELODY: Oh, beautiful. This is sort of in keeping with the theme of . . . not exactly a question but more of a statement, I guess, or sort of nudging around a subject. Now that I'm a mother and there's so much harm that I perceive to be happening to children in the world, it's almost stunning and overwhelming and paralytic. It's almost . . . there's a sense of . . . there's a quickening in my breath of fear, of so-called realities, the poor child getting gang raped in northern California or . . . and I see my beautiful daughter becoming twelve and she's in her maidenhood and I'm honoring that, and I'm just so . . . you know, here we are in the big, bad world and it was different when I was single and it was just me. I guess that's no exactly a question, but what do we do as women and how is this still happening on the earth, on our watch?

AMY: Hello, it's Amy and I think that Marianne got dropped.

MELODY: Oh my goodness.

AMY: So first of all I just want to speak to you. What's your name?



MELODY: Melody.

AMY: Melody. I'll just say to you as a mom of a two year old little girl, I so hear you and what I want to say about this is that we cannot . . .

MARIANNE: Hi, I'm back, I'm so sorry. Oh Amy, I'm so sorry.

AMY: Oh honey, it's okay. I was just going to say one thought and I'll let Marianne take over but just that we can't worry and love at the same time.

MELODY: I know that. These are the . . . it's what I know and yet . . .

AMY: Yes and the worry is still there.

MELODY: . . . ways in which we are paralyzed by a patriotic society. I'm sorry but if a man were raped every 30 seconds in America there would be rioting in the streets.

MARIANNE: Okay so this is the deal. When Amy said you can't worry and be upset that's true, but you can't just decide not to worry; you have to replace the worry. You replace the worry with positive action and that's why we are at that point as American women. That's why I mentioned the whole Sister Giant movement and concept, the idea that it's when you are part of a solution. I remember when I was working with the AIDS crisis, people who were part of the solution were not feeling the same despair. We were around AIDS patients all the time but there was actually joy because we were involved in the solution. If you pay \$10 a month to help end world hunger it's fascinating, but world hunger does not bother you in the same way, so that's why it's time now that we come together, that we work together, that we feel that we are part of this unified field of women on the move, speaking our truth. The only reason . . . you were talking about a patriarchal society and it's true. It's like I was saying before, you know, about knowing where all this started, but at the same time, at the deepest level, the problem is not just what a patriarchal order has done, the problem is that we have allowed it, we have been quiet, and we were quiet for the important reasons. We're recognizing those memories \_\_\_\_\_ but this is a new day and it's time for us to get together, you're absolutely right. It is a woman's job to take care of the home and take care of the children and we realize now that that doesn't mean whether we are actually homemakers and have children or not, it means the archetype is about realizing that this world is our home and every child, all of them, are our children, and that's the archetype of homemaker, not a specific home. That's the archetype of mother, not just of your children. The archetype of homemaker and mother is fundamental whether we have children or not, whether we're homemakers or not in the mortal world, is that okay, this world is our home, these children are our children and we are not going to be quiet anymore. When we get into that mode and we get into that mode together, I promise you, honey, you will no longer feel the effect of your despair.

MELODY: Right; thank you.

MARIANNE: Thank you.



AMY: Thank you, Melody.

MELODY: Thank you.

AMY: Okay so with that, Marianne, two questions that I like to ask at the end of each Women Masters call and that is what is it that you most want people to take away from this call today?

MARIANNE: You know, that's an interesting thing Amy, but one of the things I've come to realize about my work, which I think is a fundamental principle, my ability to serve is intimately related to my not caring what you take away, and I'll tell you what I mean. If I have a goal that you take away this or take away that, then that affects what I think I should say, and so my hope is that I, to the best of my ability, and I did to the best of my ability, I sought to \_\_\_\_\_ in this hour, and I said to the best of my ability what was in my heart and what I had come to maybe have some understanding of. What happens now is none of my business. I mean I'm human, so I hope that . . . in every person's life there was something that was . . . for one person one sentence was more relevant than another sentence, but there might also be someone on this call who thought something I said was ridiculous, who two weeks from now might think about it and look at it differently because of some experience they had. Your job is just to sing the song; your job is to write the book; your job is to coach the session; your job is to do what you feel is your part and then whatever you gave is this kind of living thing inside someone else, and I just hope everybody's happy.

AMY: Yes. So then with my next question I'm not sure if you'll have one or not, but I'll ask anyway.

MARIANNE: Since you avoided that one!

AMY: For an inspiring homework assignment, for our listeners.

MARIANNE: My inspiring homework assignment would be that you make a list of three people that you know in your heart you have not totally forgiven, and the Course in Miracles would say even if you feel mild annoyance towards them, mild annoyance, that's as much as serious outrage because even mild annoyance is because of some grievance that you're holding on to; that would be my homework. Make a list of three people and look at that, and allow yourself to see what your part is in this, and to ask, if you feel moved, for God's help in seeing it differently.

AMY: Thank you; beautiful. For everyone, I want to remind you about Marianne's Miracle Matrix, which the first 30 days are absolutely free. You can go to Marianne.com and click on Miracle Matrix, and you will be able to receive from Marianne weekly an audio of a lecture that she's given, and you'll have video downloads and live teleclasses. It's really an extraordinary online program, so I want to encourage everyone to go, even if you just sign up for the first 30 days and just experience it, I really want to encourage you to do that.



I know you talked about Sister Giant, which will be happening sometime at the end of February in Los Angeles, and I believe you have one other event in LA coming up. Is that right?

MARIANNE: Well I have my lectures that I'm going to be doing on Tuesday nights and if anybody goes to Marianne.com and signs up on the e-mail mailing list, then they'll know and somebody can just check on my website if they're interested. You know how the world is today, if you want to know all you have to do it turn on your computer; it's all there.

AMY: That's right. So thank you so much, Marianne, for being with us today.

MARIANNE: Well thank you, Amy, and I want to acknowledge you for the wonderful work that you do and thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to connect with people on your call today, and you have been personally and professionally very kind and generous and sisterly towards me, so I acknowledge you and thank you, truly.

AMY: Thank you very, very much. With that I'll just remind everyone we have one more call next week in this series. Myself and Diana Valentine will be giving a succulent, sassy, delicious breakdown from all the calls in this series, so make sure to tune in for that, and go to ReadyToGetInspired.com if you're interested in joining an accountability group, so that you can move forward on your brilliant ideas. With that I'm going to turn off the mute and let everybody say their thank yous to Marianne. Here we go.