NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR THINKING AND FEELING

("How would I like to feel?")

When I have succeeded in letting go of my negative emotions, only then can I replace them with something else. I have the ability to choose whatever it is I want to feel because I am in charge of my emotions; but I must first make room for the positive emotions by letting the negative ones go. Just as I can let go of a negative experience, so can I create or let in a positive experience. I can invite peace and happiness as easily as I can hold on to pain and misery.

Your negative feelings are not your inheritance. You did not come into this world depressed and fearful. You only *learned* these feelings out of certain experiences and relationships with others. Your negative thoughts and feelings were justified given the reality of the conditions in which you felt them. You could not feel any different than what you felt. The only problem is that you did not know what to do with them and because you did not know what to do with them, you held on to them and began to believe them as your true self. This was the beginning of the formation of your ego, your self-image.

Your ego self is not your true self. Your ego self is something that you maintain to *hide* your true self. And you only hide your true self because you believe that your true self is something unacceptable. For what other reason would you pretend that you are something you are not? Your ego self says, "If people really knew me then..." and then fill in the blank with a hundred different conclusions about how you imagine someone would think of you if they really knew you. When you succeed in letting go of your negative emotions, you will gradually discover that this true self is not what you think it is. In fact, your true self has nothing to do with thought at all. Your true self is a reflection of your own peace of mind.

Take a moment to reflect once again on the various areas of your life and consider the *positive emotions* you would like to feel in each of those areas. On the next page is a list of positive emotions. Take each area of your life one at a time and check off the positive emotions that *you would like to feel* in each of those areas. Photocopy the pages for as many of the areas as you choose. You may already feel some of these emotions in some areas of your life. If you do, go ahead and check off the ones that you already feel.

You will eventually discover that your natural inheritance is happiness and joy. You want to feel these feelings because they connect to your true self. They are familiar to you on some level but you have lost your connection with them because you have replaced them with your ego self. Now, you are returning to that which is *you* as you let go of that which you are not.

New Possibilities for Feeling, Thinking and Being

Area of my life:					
EMOTION					
□Loved □Accepted □Appreciated □Cared about □Cared for □Considered □Respected □Valuable □Worthwhile	"I can" "I'm good enough" "I matter" "It's a new chapter" "There is good in this" "I'm unique" "I'm good" "I respect myself"	"There's a place for me" "I can't please everyone" "I can please myself" "I am what I am!" "I can let love in" "I am loveable" "I can make the best of this" "There is no one like me" "I can make a difference"	"I'm valuable" "I'm worth it" "I'm OK" "I'm alive!" "I'm wanted" "I'm needed" "I'm important		
□Sufficient □Capable □Confident □Enough □Powerful □Self-supportive	"I can learn from this" "I'll do it myself" "I'l can do it" "I'll make it work" "I'l's possible" "I'll just try again" "I'l f ail, so what?" "I'll do the best I can" "I' can get others to help me" "It's worth a try" "Its never too late" "I' can always learn more"	"There is another way of seeing this" "I can find a way" "I'll never know unless I try" "So what, I failed" "I know what I know" "If it can be done, I'm the one to do it" "I can recover from this" "There's something I'm meant to do" "I'll deal with whatever comes"	"I can learn from this experience" "I can do better next time" "It'll happen" "Let's go for it" "Why not!" "I'm game" "Let's do it" "Yes!" "It's a new day!" "I can get it back"		
□Innocent □Absolved □Blameless □Exonerated □Forgiven □Humbled □Redeemed	"I'll get through this" "I can make up for this" "I' can forgive myself" "I've made some mistakes" "I've made a mistake" "I' am still a child of God" "I' had bad judgment"	"I can admit it" "I' admit it" "I'm still worthwhile" "I' can show that I'm OK" "I' understand if you don't trust me" "This does not mean I'm terrible	"I'm responsible" "I did it" "I hurt you" "I blew your trust" "I'm learning" "I am sorry" "I'l blew it"		
□ Patient □ Certain □ Content □ Delighted □ Generous □ In no doubt □ Satisfied □ Trusting	"You can have it" "That's another way of doing it!" "I'I can wait for the right time" "It'll work out" "It's OK" "I't will happen in its own time"	"There's enough for everybody" "I don't need to figure it all out" "I can live with this" "I love the way you treat me" "When you are ready" "When I am ready" "I'd like it but I don't have to have it"	"If you would like" "I trust that you will" "I can wait" "You treat me great" "I can trust" "I can let it be"		
□ Peace □ Calm □ Confident □ Imperturbable □ Quiet □ Relaxed □ Safe □ Secure □ Self-assured □ Still	"I can flow with this" "So what if I fail" "They will think what they think" "I can't be responsible for what others think" "Oh well!" "I'll just say it the way it is" "I'l can take it a day a time" "There's nothing wrong"	"Here comes another chance" "I'll try it and see how I do!" "There's always something to learn" "If I blow it I blow it!" "I can at least try" "If it happens, it happens!" "I'll just deal with it" "Opportunity after opportunity!" "It's all going to work out"	"It's all OK" "I don't need to try and change anything" "The world is safe" "I'm safe" "So what!" "I can be positive" "I can feel peace"		

□ Freedom □ Authentic □ Carefree □ Free to express □ Free to move □ Free to be □ Genuine □ Honest □ Liberated	"I can choose" "I'm free!" "I' can say what I feel" "People will think what they think" "What others think is none of my business" "I' can assert myself" "I' don't need to pretend"	"I don't <i>have</i> to say anything" "I can be loving" "I'm willing" "I am what I am" "I can create anything" "I' can be anything" "My life is what I make of it" "I' can do anything"	
□ Gratitude □Appreciating □Validating □Valuing	"Thank you!" "I love you" "I appreciate you" "I'm so glad"	"I'm honored" "I acknowledge you" "Thank you for being"	
□ Forgiving □ Accepting □ Flowing □ Understanding	"This is not the end of the world" "I can't change others" "You can find your way through this" "I can't change the world" "I can choose peace instead of this"	"You've got your own lessons" "I understand" "Maybe I don't understand " "Maybe I can help you" "Thank you for your point of view" "I can see we have a difference here"	"I can flow with this" "I'll give this to God" "That's valid" "That's reasonable"
□ Committed □ Determined □ Heartfelt □ Indomitable □ Unwavering □ Firm □ Resolved	"I don't agree with it" "I' won't be a part of that" "You will have to work that out yourself" "We have a difference here." "I' respect your point of view" "I' respect your way of doing things" "I't is not my way." "I'm committed to us" "You have a point there"	"I feel strongly about this" "I still love you" "I have to let this go" "I won't try to change you" "I must at least say this" "We have our own paths" "I can lighten up about it" "I' don't have to take it so seriously" "I' can trust" "I'll trust this"	"I'm here for you" "I'm committed to you" "You made a mistake" "Is there any way I can help" "You can count on me" "I'm here"
□Joy □Awe □Carefree □Celebrating □Cheerful □Enthusiastic □Expectant □In good spirits □Jovial □Lighthearted □Positive □Silly □Wonder	"Wow!" "Cool!" "All right!" "Yessss!" "Whoopee!" "Yippee!" "Yahoo!" "Can't wait!" "This is great!" "Look at that!" "You are something!"	"Man o' man!" "I can't believe it!" "Let's go!" "I'm breathless!" "I'm beside myself!" "Let's dance all night!" "You're the one!" "Take it to the limit!" "Excuse me while I kiss the sky!" "Serious is not in my vocabulary"	