



Of Seeds and Flowers



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THE GOLDEN RULE, LIVED! -A REAL THANKSGIVING!!

The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," has an honored place among the great spiritual traditions:

Christianity: Treat others the way you would have them treat you: this sums up the law and the prophets. (Matt.7: 12)

Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. (Udana-Varga 5: 18)

Confucianism: Is there one maxim which ought to be acted upon throughout one's whole life? Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do unto others what you would not have them do unto you. (Analects 1523)

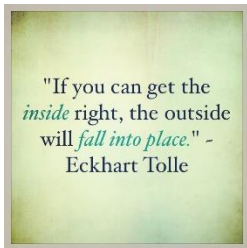
Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you. (Mahabharata 5: 1517)

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowmen. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. (Talmud, Shabbat 31d)

Islam: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. (Sunnah)

*Love,
AND DO
WHAT YOU
WILL.*
AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

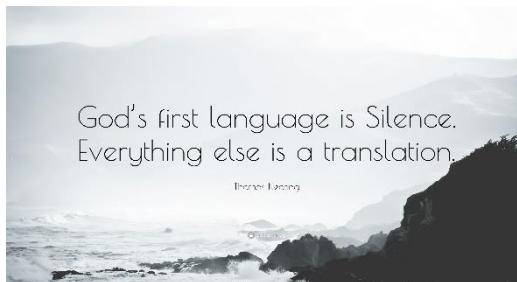
But all of the above isn't worth "DIDDLEY" if it doesn't go from your head to your heart and you risk for it. Dreamers are a "dime a dozen". It is only twelve inches from your head to your heart but it can be the longest journey you will ever make. In your heart you have to risk for what you believe. DANGEROUS STUFF!!



For some strange reason it is joy and happiness that we hold lightly and victim-hood that we grab onto.

The best thing you can do for others is to continue your spiritual journey. Truth firmly lived, will bring us/you out the other side. Keep praying! It always leads to the truth AND GENUINE HAPPINESS!!

The most important thing to DO is TO BE. Prayer creates being and changes ME, my neighbor, co-worker, and the universe. Etc. etc. etc. If you are too busy to pray you are TOO BUSY!



Americans are more frightened by holiness and joy than by sinfulness.

PERSEVERANCE: Persevere, my friend, persevere. Continue believing in goodness, ultimate goodness, when evil has had its day. Continue to lower your bucket into the well of prayer, even though you haven't drawn a drop.

Continue to rise each morning, though your limbs should I refuse to move. Continue to search for meaning in unavoidable suffering, when nothing makes sense. Continue to cast your line into the sea of lost souls, though not one fish takes a bite.

Continue to perform your duties, even if drudgery should dampen your spirit. Continue to work beyond failures, disappointments, and detours, pressing toward the. Goal.

Persevere, my friend, persevere, for the dark night is ending, dawn is breaking on the horizon, and the sun will soon rise. The above is from the fabulous book, "Mary's Mantle" by Christine Watkins. Available at: orders@queenofpeacemedia.com Truly better than 10 visits to the marriage counselor; the psychologist or spiritual director.

Devil's Clearance Sale

Reflect for a moment on this legend that tells about the time the devil decided to close up shop in one part of the world and open up in another. A "going out of business" sale was announced.

One of the first customers, being quite fascinated with the various evil instruments on display, noticed that of all the devil's tools, the highest priced one was called "discouragement."

"Why is this one so expensive?" he inquired. "Quite simple," replied the devil. "**It is my favorite.**"

TONIGHT, join the millions praying for one minute for our nation at 9 O'clock Eastern. Let's transform the country FROM THE INSIDE OUT. PRAYER CHANGES THINGS! Prayer makes things happen!



God doesn't make junk; "Even a rose needs to be reminded of its beauty".



Every once in a while, say the following **TOTALLY TRUE** words slowly, very slowly so they sink in like a Spring rain. Over and over, maybe four or five times, until you own it, until it becomes real in your beautiful heart.



- 1) *God made me, and God doesn't make junk.*
- 2) *GOD LOVES ME. God **LOVES** me. God loves **ME**.*
- 3) *Therefore, I am GOOD. GOOD, GOOD.*

It is true. You can't deny it. God only does good things. He only makes GOOD things and this includes YOU. Don't be your own worst enemy. *"You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb. For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders.* Psalm 139

There is a poignant story told of a three-year-old toddler who wanted to speak alone with his new baby brother. He kept insisting he wanted to talk with his brother and he wanted to speak alone with him in his nursery. The boy's strong insistence made the parents a bit wary of what might happen if they let the older son be alone with his newly born brother, but they finally relented, but they stayed by the door and listened to make sure everything was safe.

They heard the older son say to his baby brother, "Jimmy, can you tell me what Heaven and Jesus are like, I'm beginning to forget." How the Lord must be present to the little ones!! -and, as adults, we miss it so, but instinctively, deep in our hearts, we know that is where our ultimate happiness really lies!! GIVE IN!!

"O God, help me to believe the truth about myself no matter how beautiful it is"



'Test yourselves: Do you acknowledge that Jesus, the Christ, is really in you? If not, you have failed the test.' 2 Corinthians 13:6.

VISION AND REALITY

CONFIDENCE, ALL WILL BE WELL!

Jesus has a beautiful, wonderful plan for His Church and when we faithfully follow it, VERY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN. The Church, we say, is our mother. However, no matter how much we love our Mother, revere our Mother, listen to our Mother, cherish our Mother, every once in a while, our Mother gets sick and the Church becomes quite messy, a suffering Church, like now. Suffering, sadness, pain, embarrassment etc.. This has happened over and over during the last 2000 years because of the weakness and sinfulness of its leaders and members. However, the Church **always survives**. STILL, OUR MOTHER!!! “And know that I am with you **always, until the end of the world.**”, JESUS, Mt. 28: 20. “It is difficult to suffer for the church; impossible to suffer from the Church.” Georges Bernanos

Carlo Carretto, the great Italian spiritual writer, once wrote a tribute to the church which captures well, both its **scandal and its grace**. In the closing section of perhaps his most mature book, “I Sought and I Found”, Carretto addresses the church in these words: *“How much I must criticize you, my church and yet how much I love you! You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe more to you than to anyone. I should like to see you demolished and yet I need your presence. You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.*

Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful. Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face-and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms! No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you. Then too, where would I go? To build another church?

*But I could not build one without the same defects, for they are my defects. And again, if I were to build another church, **it would be my church, not Christ's church**. No. I am old enough. I know better!”*

Anyone who searches for God and perseveres in that quest will, at some point, look at the role that human community plays in that quest and resonate with what Carretto has written. The church has ever been thus. Don't be scandalized by it. My sinfulness and your sinfulness are all a part of the church. Examples of great sinners and of the greatest of holy people have been a part of this church. They will have to throw me out.

Pretty words are not always true and true words are not always pretty.

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From the “**Catechism of the Catholic Church**” on the section, “The Eighth Commandment, “***Thou shalt not bear false witness***”. (Pg.658 #2496-97). (I accidentally fell on this last night, truly.) “*The means of social communication (especially mass media) can give rise to a certain passivity among users, making them less than vigilant consumers of what is said or shown. Users should practice moderation and discipline in their approach to the mass media. They will want to form **enlightened and correct consciences the more easily to resist unwholesome influences**. #2497- By the very nature of their profession, journalists have an obligation **to serve the truth and not offend against charity** in disseminating information. They should strive to respect, with equal care, the nature of the **facts** and the limits of critical judgment concerning individuals. They should not **stoop to defamation**.” -and much more in the Catechism about states that falsify the truth and “thought crimes”. Today, the media is guilty of many very serious violations of the eighth commandment these days!! True institutional or social mortal sin! Church teaching, AT ITS BEST!*

SET YOUR HEART FREE - St. Francis De Sales

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME DREAMING OF BEING SOMEONE ELSE. DON'T TRY TO BE SOMEONE ELSE. WORK AND PRAY AT BEING YOURSELF. BE WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU ARE!!

CONCENTRATE ON THE LITTLE EVERYDAY PROBLEMS AND PAINS THAT BESET YOU. RESERVE YOUR BEST EFFORTS, EXPEND YOUR SPIRITUAL ENERGY ON WHAT IS RIGHT BEFORE YOU. THIS IS WHAT GOD ASKS OF YOU. THIS IS ALL HE ASKS OF YOU: THAT YOU LIVE AND RESPOND TO HIS GRACE IN

THE HERE AND NOW. TO DO ANYTHING ELSE IS TO WASTE YOUR TIME.

LISTEN CLOSELY. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY MISUNDERSTOOD FOR WE ALL PREFER TO DO WHAT IS TO OUR PERSONAL LIKING. VERY FEW OF US CHOOSE DUTY OR THE WILL OF GOD. DON'T CULTIVATE SOMEONE ELSE'S GARDEN GROW WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.



Francis de Sales - Let Go, Let God

STOP WORRYING. WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU MUST DO TO FOLLOW THE PATH THAT GOD HAS SHOWN YOU DO TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. AND WHEN YOU HAVE DONE IT MOVE ON TO THE NEXT THING.

DON'T KEEP RERUNNING IT IN YOUR MIND TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER YOUR EFFORTS WERE TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH, WHETHER IT WAS A GREAT DEED OR A SMALL ONE, WHETHER YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE BETTER.

IF IT WASN'T SINFUL AND YOU WERE TRYING TO DO THE WILL OF GOD, IT IS ENOUGH.

DON'T WORRY. MOVE ON. SIMPLY. CALMLY. PEACEFULLY.

FOLLOW THE PATH THE LORD SHOWS YOU FREE OF ANXIETY. OTHERWISE YOUR ANXIETY WILL UNDERMINE YOUR EFFORTS TO GROW.

IF YOU DO FAIL DON'T LET ANXIETY OVERCOME YOU, BUT ADMIT YOUR FAILURE, QUIETLY, HUMBLY, AND IN GOD'S PRESENCE. THEN GET ON WITH FOLLOWING THE PATH THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW YOU.

“The one thing we absolutely owe to God is *not to worry*.” - Charles DeFoucauld



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