



Of Seeds and Flowers



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ARE YOU A PERFORMANCE CHRISTIAN??

Performance Christianity or Spirituality: We ALL, especially in Western Christianity, have been performance Christians at one time or another. This is how performance spirituality works? *"I do all these religious things and faithfully: I go to Church each Sunday, read the Bible, commandments, tithe, fast, pray, ashes, palms, rosary, sacraments, stations etc. etc. **AND FAITHFULLY.**"* The fact is, all of these religious actions are good if they are done to praise, honor, bless and worship God. However, if we do all or some of these religious acts to subtly control God, and to make God **"OWE US"**, we have to reconsider why we do them.

And when God doesn't deliver for me, I feel either:

A. God doesn't love or care for me. – **"AFTER ALL I DO FOR Him!"** *"You'd think He would care for me as I do for Him."*

Or

B. *"I failed in some way, **BIG TIME**; either I didn't do enough or I didn't do everything just right."* AND, BOY, DO I FEEL GUILTY!! And I AM SICK ABOUT IT AND ANGRY AT GOD FOR NOT DELIVERING. **HE OWES ME!!** - **Performance Christianity.**

First, I perform– I do all of the right things, often and well, but with the subtle mindset of seeking reward and avoiding punishment.

Second – somewhere, hidden in my feelings, I now think God owes me one – I have **CONTROL** of God...

Third – inevitably, the demands of living the perfect Christian life, are too great, and I **FAIL**...

Fourth – **BIG TIME GUILT!!** All it takes is a death in the family, a divorce, loss of a job or friend, a fire and **"there is no God."** – God has forsaken me!

And so, we have PERFORMANCE SPIRITUALITY!

In Western countries and the Western Church, we have been raised on Performance Christianity. Commandments, morality, sin, confession, guilt. A long list of things to do and big guilt if you don't do them. In the East, (Eastern Churches) the spirituality is not so much about performance but on DIVINAZATION. It is about having a loving relationship with God, more about becoming divine, one with Jesus, one with God, contemplative prayer, being transformed into divine love, putting on the mind and heart of God. What a better way to spend your spiritual life! Prayer to put on the mind of Christ, to become one with the Father and the Spirit. To be transformed and then to spill over into the lives of others and world around us. Morality takes care of itself. The East has it right!!! NO GUILT!! Freedom, love, relationship, transformation. -One with God, yourself, others and the universe! Union not separation. Being always comes before doing.

And another negative reality that encourages Performance Spirituality is our bad understanding who God is, a policeman, threatener, lightning bolt thrower, judge, lawyer, with a whole KGB of angels watching our every step to catch us in some fault. These are all a projection of our fear of the unknown and are most unworthy of God, the unconditional lover. God totally knows YOU, the REAL you, not the FAKE YOU, OR the DREAM YOU, OR the SELF-MADE-YOU, and still TOTALLY LOVES YOU!!! God cannot, not love YOU.

Have you ever seen a neurotic cow or a psychotic horse or an *Obsessive Compulsive Disorder* tree or beach? Do you know why not? Because they are living and acting as their Creator intended- totally dependent on God in their cowness, horsiness, treeness, beachness. They are humble, docile, BEING who and what they are meant to BE. Their glory is to be dependent on their Creator and BEING exactly who they are meant to be. Only human beings, -since Adam and Eve, ("You shall be like gods")- reject who they really ARE and are miserable doing it. Ego, pride is a true killer of happiness! Only the highest point of God's creation, man and woman, reject God.

What to do? How to fix this? Thirty years ago, I would have suggested making a Cursillo, or Life in the Spirit Seminar or joining a Spirit filled prayer group. If you can find one, do it. They all are great, gentle evangelizers. -easy, non-threatening ways of establishing a loving relationship with God.

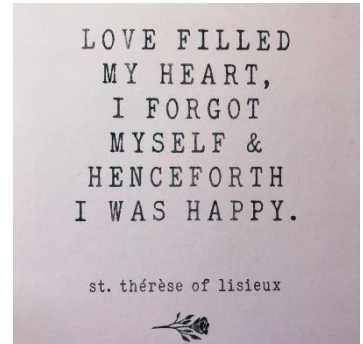
The first step to fixing performance spirituality is to attend to the presence of God in your own life. - Letting go of the SELF-MADE SELF. This is hard because you are probably NOT PRESENT TO YOURSELF. Too much technology, thinking, education, ego, T.V., bad experiences. Pray that the eyes of your heart may be flooded with light so you can know and understand. You need **heart vision**, (maybe a heart transplant?), Kingdom vision. You need to **EXPERIENCE** THE PERSON OF JESUS. -the personal experience of His love. Spirituality is not a technique but a relationship. Billy Graham would correctly say: Stop beating around the bush and accept Jesus into your life as your personal Lord and Savior

and ask Him to release the power of the Spirit in your life to have the power to live this new life. DO IT! God wants more for you than you want for yourself and He is willing to give you the power to achieve it!

Intellectuals have the hardest time!! Ego/pride are killers! "To know the Lord and his ways," as the prophets put it, has very little to do with intelligence and very much to do with a wonderful mixture of prayer and surrender in humility to YOUR Creator. People who live in this way are the happiest and most calm people I know. They draw their life from the inside out.

This generation of young people are like crows. They pick up everything that glitters, and keep doing it no matter how uncomfortable their nests become with all that metal in them. Young people, with their perpetual, penetrating noise and distractions have forgotten how to bow, to kneel, to genuflect, to kiss the ground, to worship.

I have been with a lot of unhappy people in my lifetime and not one person ever asked me how to have a better or real relationship with God or teach me how to pray as a solution to their unhappiness. And yet, almost all contemporary spiritual teachers are saying that most life problems are psychological and the **solutions are spiritual.**



"If you are not hungry for God you are probably full of yourself. - nothing to keep you humble, from the nagging "false self".

I am grateful that neither my sin nor my stupidity keeps God from loving me. He is the never-ending waterwheel of love. Just get wet!!

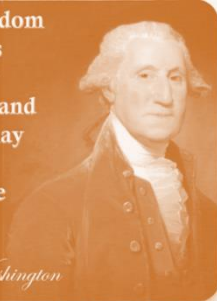
True story: A professor in a mid-west college, after teaching for 20 years found himself disillusioned with life. He decided to travel to the East to find wisdom. (I am always amazed why Westerners think you have to head East to find wisdom. I'll bet he could have found what he needed 10 miles from his home.) The professor met with one wise man; was unhappy and moved on. He met with another guru, was unhappy and moved on. After two more unfulfilling meetings he encountered another teacher. This man admonished him, "You are like the man who digs a well 3 feet deep and doesn't discover water and then moves on and digs another 3 foot well, and another and another. STOP and DIG DEEP and you will find living water. "If ANYONE thirsts, let him come to ME; let him drink who believes in me, from within him rivers of LIVING WATERS will flow." John7:17.



VISION AND REALITY

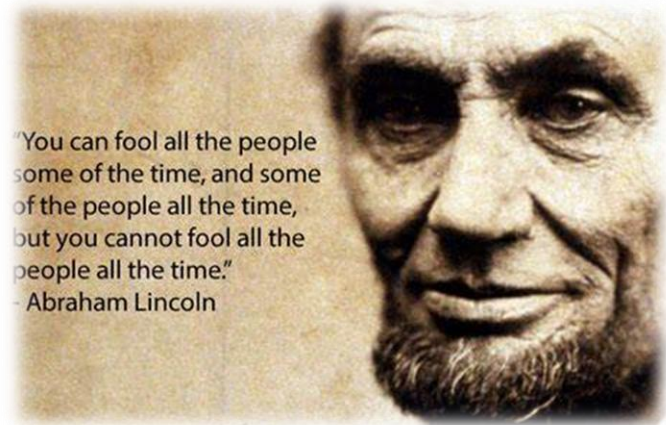
"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

George Washington



"On a good day, I am told, that most humans are at best willing to call 5 percent of their *so-called openness*, into question. I hope it is not true," writes R. Rohr. Divine Dance Pg.124. Dear, dear God, I, too, hope this is not true!! 5%, - that is terrible news. I knew that changing people's minds on anything is almost impossible. But 5%.

FYI: the Psychiatric community, after dealing with patients and studying society's response to covid have named this unexplainable obedience and over-reaction, "**Mass Formation Psychosis**". Don't be a part of it! Fear is everywhere. It draws us to the center we have created, the ego self and takes us from complete trust in God. Strange, but many people, including children, I have talked to say they like wearing the mask. They, "kind of, like hiding."



"You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."
- Abraham Lincoln

One of the good things that has come out of covid is that it has revealed "**who we are**". - especially our church and political leaders, and the media. Full display! Can't hide that behind a mask.



If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got!



Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written:

"He catches the wise in their own ruses,"
and again:

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

Corinthians 3:18-20

"Now I occupy my soul and all my energy in his service. I no longer tend the flock, nor have I any other work now that my every act is love. If, then, I am no longer seen or found on the common, you will say that I am lost, that, stricken by love, I lost myself, and was found."

John of the Cross.

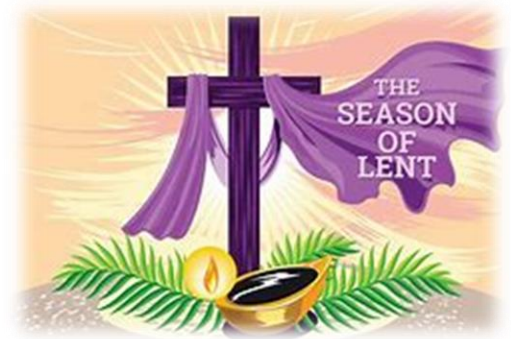


"Sorry, that doesn't apply to your mother."

ALSO, FYI: We are, at present, in a wonderful GREAT “paradigm shift” in science and religion. Most people still aren’t aware of it. - cataclysmic insight and breakthrough is happening. This has been underway for some time -hiding in plain sight, Stay tuned!!

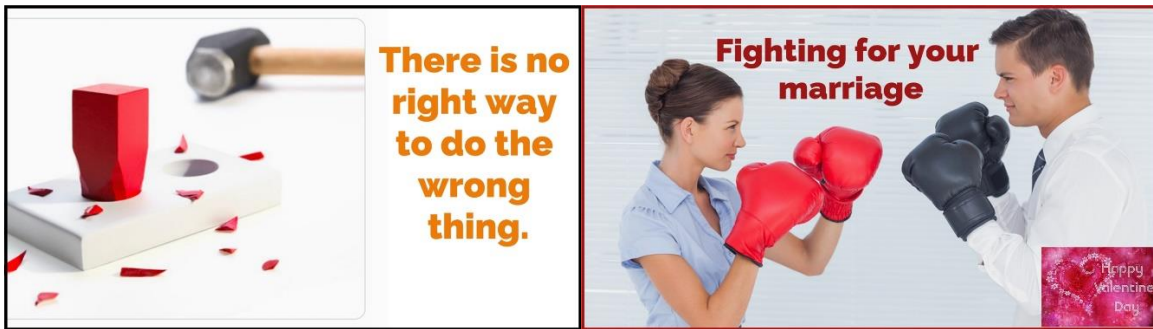


No New Podcasts or “Of Seeds and Flowers” during Lent. Time for the spiritual desert. Prayer, silence, simplicity, surrender, solitude. The 4 S’s. “Apart from ME you can do nothing.” “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.”



Mary’s Field is now on YouTube. Short videos will be uploaded to help nourish your heart and strengthen your spirit during these difficult times. Type “YouTube Mary’s Field” into the Bing.com search engine or “Mary’s Field” into the Youtube.com search to find our channel. 250 podcasts in our library!

Below are just two of the many videos you may like from the channel.



It has been 148 days since Texas passed its new abortion law. It stopped 100 abortions a day, 14,800 lives saved.

44,000 babies from Planned Parenthood were dumped into a Kentucky landfill, revealed Attorney General Michael De Wine. The babies were steamed cooked and tossed into the trash. This is common practice nationwide. Thank you Nancy and Mr. Biden. et.al. Your tax dollars at work.



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