

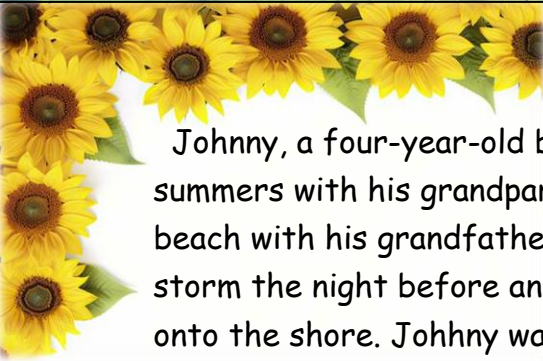
Of Seeds and Flowers

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LOVE AND SIN, ARE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS! - Love of self as well!!

Johnny, a four-year-old boy, went to the shore for the past two summers with his grandparents. Each morning Johnny would walk the beach with his grandfather. On one morning walk there was a big storm the night before and bazillions of starfish were washed up onto the shore. Johnny was running up and down the beach frenetically throwing the starfish back into the surf. He knew that

if he threw the starfish into the surf, it would live and if he left it on the beach it would die. After about twenty minutes of this wild activity his grandfather said to him, "**Johhny, Johnny, you can't save them all, it really doesn't matter.**" Johnny, holding up the starfish he had in his hand and looking into his grandfather's eyes said, "**But to THIS ONE IT MATTERS.**"



"Come to the edge."
"We can't. We're afraid."
"Come to the edge."
"We can't. We will fall!"
"Come to the edge."
And they came.
And he pushed them.
And they flew.

-Guillaume Apollinaire

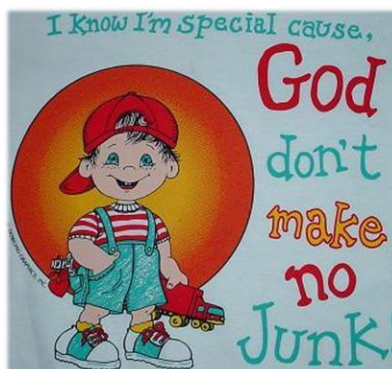
O God, help me to believe
the truth about myself,
no matter how beautiful
it is.

-Macrina Wiederkehr

YOU, YOU, YOU!!! - to THIS ONE IT MATTERS!!! The starfish IS **YOU!!** YOU matter to OTHERS, to GOD, to the UNIVERSE. One of the most difficult things I have had to do as a counselor is to convince people they are going about shining like the sun.

Loving yourself is like
the key to your car. A
genuine, happy life
can't be started
without it.

It is GOOD to be in YOUR skin.



Good News: "I know well the plans I have in mind for YOU, says the Lord, **plans for your welfare, not for woe**, plans to give YOU a future of **hope**. When you call me, when you go to pray to Me, **I will listen to YOU**. When you look for ME, **YOU will find Me**. Yes, when you seek Me with all your heart, **you will find Me** with you, says the Lord and **I will change your lot.**" Jeremiah 29:11-14

And for all the unsuspecting folks who do not know that they are already in the Divine flow!

"...Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we're liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Marianne Williamson
A Return To Love



Broken In Japan, ceramics of high value are repaired using an ancient technique called kintsugi – filling cracks with **gold-laced** lacquer. Visually, kintsugi celebrates breaks, flaws, and

points of weakness as opportunities to create new beauty. Skillfully done, kintsugi can make a broken piece of ceramic more prized than an unbroken one.

Hold on to your “cracks”. I can’t tell you how many times I have seen over the past 50 years how people’s problems and weaknesses become their greatest gifts FOR OTHERS. The Lord will send you people who have the same difficulties, and you can say, “***I’ve been there.***” “***I know what you are going through.***” “***In weakness, power reaches perfection.***” **St. Paul** “***Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains only a grain of wheat.***”

Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.

Mother Teresa

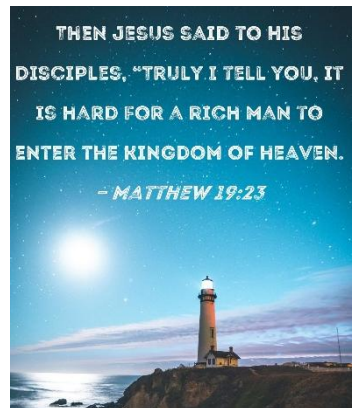
“The most important thing to DO is to BE.” Lao Tzu, 5th century B.C. It is easier to dig ditches for eight hours a day than it is to seriously change oneself, one’s routine, one’s thoughts or beliefs or conditioning. Nothing **NO-THING** happens outside of a man or woman that hasn’t FIRST happened INSIDE of a man or woman.



Lives Out of Balance: In 1923, nine of the world’s most successful financiers met at Chicago’s Edgewater Beach Hotel. Financially, they literally “held the world by the tail.” Anything that money could buy was within their grasps; they were rich – rich – rich! Read their names and the high position each held:

Bad psychology, bad theology, bad education, bad raising of children, etc. **are not victimless crimes!**

- **Charles Schwab**, president of the largest steel company; died bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death.
- **Samuel Insull**, president of the largest electric utility company. died penniless after 3 criminal cases bankrupted him.
- **Howard Hopson**, president of the largest gas company died in a sanitarium.
- **Arthur Cutten**, the great wheat speculator died after being indicted for tax evasion.
- **Richard Whitney**, president of the New York Stock Exchange, went to jail for grand larceny.
- **Albert Fall**, Secretary of Interior in President Harding’s Cabinet. Convicted of bribery and died broke.
- **Leon Fraser**, president of the Bank of International Settlements committed suicide.
- **Jesse Livermore**, called the greatest “bear” on Wall Street took his own life.
- **Ivar Kreuger**, head of the world’s largest matchstick manufacture was actually running a giant Ponzi scheme and died from suicide.



I have been at the deathbed of about 400 people and NOONE has ever said, “*I wish I spent more time at the office*” Most people say or wish that they spent more time with their God, spouse, or children in that order.

LIFE IN PERSPECTIVE: One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip the father asked his son, “How was the trip?” “It was great, Dad.” “Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked. “Oh yeah.” said the son. “So, what did you learn from the trip?” asked the father. The son answered, “I saw that we have one dog, and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches the front yard, and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Then mystics like Teilhard de Chardin come along and teach that **"the very physical structure of the universe is LOVE."** Mindboggling!!!! All this orbiting, exploding, expanding, and even contracting is Infinite Love at work. God certainly IS!! This is why spiritual giants like Thomas Keating say, one act of love changes the universe and conversely, ONE BAD ACT changes the universe. **BAD ACTS** - think abortion or Ukraine or evening news or politicians or all the lying to further whatever cause is currently popular. Love and sin are HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS!!

Too many times, we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one's person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective. This truth makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for the bounty we have instead of worrying about wanting more.

Those who are looking through microscopes and those who looking through telescopes see the same pattern: These scientists- cosmologists- are saying that all reality, that everything in our world, EVERYTHING is in RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!!!



Transgender men in women sports = gender identity over biological reality.

Gallup tells us that the people promoting the fiction that there are an endless number of sexes, are overwhelmingly rich, white, liberal secularists with post graduate degrees. Those who are the most likely to claim they belong to this population are young people, girls/women, Democrats, liberals, live in the cities or suburbs. -not surprising!

Girls' sports are not a place for failed male athletes.



I just read an article in the New Oxford Review by an Episcopalian from Bethlehem, PA. (my hometown) that said that the Episcopal church has lost 50% of its congregants since the 1970's. -the same is true for most churches. The author said that the Episcopal Churches that will now "MAKE IT" will have to have a pastor who is 1. **eloquent** (good sermons) 2. Be **well educated** and 3. BE "**ONE OF US**". **ONE OF US???? ONE OF US?**

ONE OF US: What is this "**ONE OF US**"? **Believe** like ONE OF US, or **don't believe**, or **think** or **act like "ONE OF US"**.? What is the alternative? "We won't go to church any more or close the church or start another church that agrees with ME or "One of us". Sounds a bit wishy-washy" Until October 1517 (Martin Luther), starting a new church, was a NON-SOLUTION. Is he part of the reason we now have worldwide a variety of 45,000 different Christian churches? - don't agree, start your own?

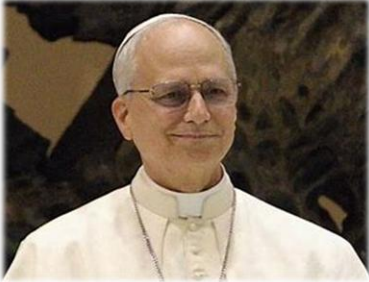


You don't want your church to evolve or devolve into an active social organization with a cross on top or be a pawn to society's 'winds', **just to fill the seats**. It is easy to hand out sandwiches or coats. **HARD TO PRAY AND SHARE THE GOSPEL**. How many pastors are **picked and kept** because they are "**one of us**"? Is that good or bad?

The church is called to share God, Jesus, to evangelize, the bible not for political activism. - "the flavor of the month", to fill the seats. Pope Leo recently, correctly said, "*Our first duty is to communicate the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus.*"

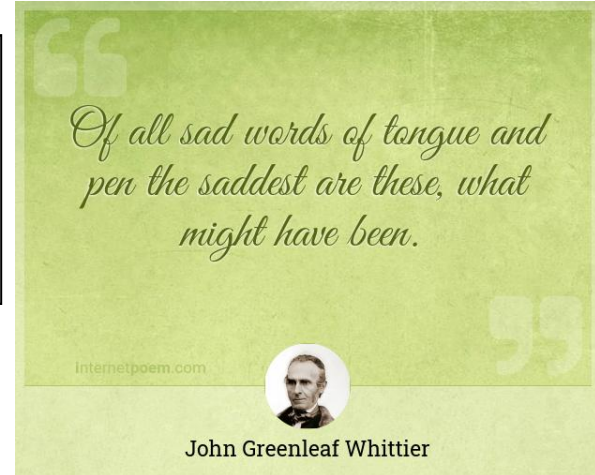
The "pastor welcoming" articles in local newspapers" always ask the wrong but paper selling questions. What is your favorite team or T. V. show? Do you have a dog or cat? Mountains or shore for vacation? Never ask, How do you pray and find time to pray? What spiritual books do you read? How often do you read the Bible? Are you available for spiritual direction?

IMAGINE!: What if all the Christians in America were united in one church, and attended church each week and did not demand that their pastor **"BE ONE OF US"** and believed the chief job of the pastor was to put forth Jesus, His life, His teachings, His words.!!! IMAGINE! *knowing Jesus.*" What if only all the churches on College campuses did this?



"Our first duty is to communicate the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus."

Pope Leo XIV



We need to separate Jesus Christ from the failure of those who work for Him!

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Mark 6: 31.

Summertime!!!!Do nothing well!!

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