

THE MIND WHICH HAS TRANSCENDED CONFLICT...

it's interesting how self-righteousness can tag along with one's spiritual growth. And for many years after our first conversation, Paul felt that the fact that he was able to talk with me, or that I was willing to talk with him was because he had excelled in his study of truth – his religious upbringing – and that that had brought him to a point of excellence which caused him to be deserving of this experience, which of course, was utterly false. Because at the bottom line, when we had our first conversations, Paul was in dire straits . . . unemployed, with a family of three children and a wife, and none of his practice of his religious upbringing that he felt he had excelled at was correcting the problem. He was in the pits. He was failing and nothing he did was correcting the situation. That's how competent he was, fortunately, because in the light of that circumstance, it brought him to his knees, literally. And he found himself many times on the floor with his forehead on the carpet, bowed almost as flat as one can get to the floor praying for help – asking for help. No longer thinking that he had any personal capacity or spiritual power all by himself, he abandoned it and then finally started sitting down nightly and making the statement that I just shared with everyone. And then came our first conversations and of course, all the ones since then.

The saying is quite true: Man's extremity is God's opportunity.²

When you or Paul or anyone arrives at a point where you willingly and completely abandon your own self-righteousness, your own private personal capacity to accomplish great things on your own, and you are in a state of humility – which to you, you define as failure, which is insulting, which is awful – when you arrive at that point with no more faith in yourself and your righteousness, and you sincerely ask for help, you get the help. Not because of your competence, but because of what you Are, the Son or Daughter of God whom God answers when God is approached genuinely. It's that simple.

After we began talking, Paul's worldly situation began to change as a result of the Guidance and the clearer understanding that I was sharing with him and which he was embracing. But it wasn't because he was making anything happen at all. It wasn't because he was suddenly given power by virtue of his relationship with me to cause good things to

happen. No. The good things happened because that's the nature of Being. The good things happened because it's the Father's Will for fulfillment to be the center and circumference of the conscious experience of Being. That's why.

Now everything that you are hearing me teach about what the Course is saying is leading you to the point where you are willing to do exactly what Paul did. And especially in the last few weeks, I have been illuminating the contrast between independent self-assertive arrogant private thinking that seems to convince you that you are an authority of some kind in your own right who can make things happen and you who's willing to abandon that, and in the quietness within you, turn your attention away from yourself and your capacity and how you feel and how right you are, and simply turn to the Father or the Holy Spirit and say, "I need help! I need to know what the truth is separate and apart from anything I personally privately think. Because what I personally privately think is arrogant self-righteousness. It is me valuing my thoughts and my words more than God's. It is me valuing the meanings I am applying to all of Creation in preference to asking God what His Meanings are in all Creation. You see?

Now, although Paul values the prayer he says, and although he says "let the reign of divine truth, life and love be established in me," meaning not at his own hand but as the law of God Being the lawful orderliness and nature of Paul's Being without Paul refuting it or modifying it in any way, he's found during the last few weeks as we've been discussing self-righteousness, that he is not that willing in all situations to defer to the Holy Spirit - that which is nothing more than his right Mind - or the Father because he is so damned sure that what he thinks and what he knows is true.

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