

I Have Loved You With An Everlasting Love

I have loved you with an everlasting love

I have called you and you are mine

I have loved you with an everlasting love

I have called you and you are mine

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him

He will bring you his light and his peace

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him

He will bring you his joy and his hope

Seek the face of the Lord and long for Him

He will bring you his care and his love.

Mary Timko  
April 25, 2017

Thank You For Joining Us!

216-228-7451  
www.centeringspace.org  
centeringspace@srsfcharity.org

If God Stopped Thinking of Me,  
He Would Cease to Exist



Our prayer is characterized  
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

## To Ponder Ruthless Trust" by Brennan Manning

Brennan Manning says that “the need for an unfaltering trust in the love of God is the most urgent need we have. It is the remedy for much of our sickness, melancholy, and self-hatred. But that fear of not knowing what lies ahead destroys the childlike trust in the Father’s active goodness and unrestricted love.”

We can come to this trust through “the irreversible forgiveness of Jesus Christ that redeems us from the corrosive power of fear. So life-changing is this ultimate act of confidence in the acceptance of Jesus Christ that it can properly be called the hour of salvation. What is missing at this time of salvation is our own self-acceptance.” Jesus Christ helps us, “bid good riddance to unhealthy guilt, shame, remorse, and self-hatred. Anything less—self-rejection in any form—is a manifest sign of a lack of trust in the total sufficiency of Jesus’ saving work. Unbounded trust in the merciful love of the redeeming God deals a mortal blow to skepticism, cynicism, and self-condemnation. It is our decisive YES to Christ’s command, “Trust in God and Trust in Me.”

We know the biblical stories that tout our human goodness. Yet it is Manning’s unbelief in his own goodness that is his biggest obstacle to trust. “Wallowing in shame, remorse, self-hatred and guilt over real or imagined failings in our past lives betrays a distrust in the love of God. It shows that we have not accepted the acceptance of Jesus Christ and thus have rejected the total of his redeeming work.” All of these self-destructive ways “close us within the mighty citadel of self, and preempt the presence of a compassionate God.”

As we journey this life alongside of God, we are bound to encounter hardships. “Somewhere along the way, in the life of the maturing Christian, faith combined with hope grows into trust. The way of trust is risky business, no doubt about it. The disciple however, no longer plagued by the desire to please others and valuing God’s approval more than the disapproval of humans, moves on with eyes fixed on Jesus, “the author and pioneer of trust.”

## Reading: Meditations and Mandalas by Nan C Merrill

O Beloved of all hearts, how I yearn  
to bask in your love!  
To walk by faith rather than fear—  
to be a companioning friend  
to You.

For far too long I have felt unworthy,  
like an orphan unwanted and alone,  
Forgetting that You call me by name;  
You shelter me in the palm of  
Your hand!

Like all who open the heart’s door,  
You are mine; I am Yours!  
O Beloved Friend, quiet my restless soul;  
may I ever remember that my  
true home is love.  
Thanks be to You, Who are love!

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...