

To Ponder: Robert Wicks in Seeds of Sensitivity

[There is] a classic tension between prayer and action. On the one hand we need a hope based on a deep faith nurtured in silent prayer; and on the other a proven faith anchored and developed in our encounters with each other. To forsake one end of the spectrum is to endanger the other. To avoid silence and solitude is to court burnout and disillusionment; yet, to foster quietism while the forests are devastated and persons are being abused due to their gender, race, ethnic, or financial state, is to let our period of so-called “spiritual solitude” become like stagnant water. It may be calm and still, but it will also be putrid, not the life-giving water of God. Real spirituality dawns only when God is as real as the problems and joys we face each day — an impossibility if we cut our prayer off from our responsibilities and daily realities.

[Our] hope must be based on concrete encounters with God in silence and solitude. Otherwise, the despair that is sold on TV every morning and in the newspapers every evening will surely win out. It is only when we are reminded of the duplicity in our own hearts that we avoid the dangers of harshly criticizing others as charlatans. It is only when we see our response to pain as being part of God’s overall response, which includes the prayer of others as well, that we can see in our aloneness with God that we are never really alone.

This however, is only one part of the equation. Although solitude and praying in silence are a part of following Jesus’ example, it must also include sensitive intimacy with others. Time alone with God is not meant to replace the communal sense of God that is experienced when two or more are gathered in the Lord’s name. We recognize that our quiet reflection must be tempered and needs to be fired by interactions in which we are open, vulnerable, and looking for God beyond our projections and needs. Street Spirituality then is the place where contemplation and action meet.

Reading: Bruce Sanguin

Mighty and tender God,
you, the deep within all,
you, the encompassing heart of all,
we enter now into your kin-dom,
your community of wholeness,
a realm of peace.

We bring our hunger,
and the hunger of our world.
We bring our inner stranger,
and the exiled of the world.
We bring our hurting selves,
and the hurting of the world.
We open to healing.

Inspired, we dare to imagine integrity
in our inner life, our relationships,
our planet, and our political systems.

We dare to imagine the reign of Christ,
Love’s Servant,
your heart for an unfolding cosmos
Amen.

Sharing...
a word...
a phrase...
a reflection...

What My Life Is For Ginny Owens

This morning I woke up Poured coffee in my cup
Prayed God would save me from my first-world problems
Each moment packed with me
What I feel, what I want, what I need
Overflowing with empty And all for nothing'
When did I stop livin' When did I start missin'
The truth of who You are And Your voice inside my heart sayin'

Give a little more, take a little less
Live like there's no tomorrow
Say a little thanks for every little thing
'cause all I have is borrowed
It's time to make a change To let go of everything
Open up my hands, open up my doors
cause love is what my life is for

Wonder what my world could be
With a little more generosity
Pouring out every part of me For Your kingdom
'cause time's rushin' like a train
But You've offered me this day
And I'm gonna choose to take Every chance I'm given

I'll give my all, so this world can see
Your outstretched arms, and Your love so deep
Here's where I start livin' Here's where I stop missin'
The truth of who You are
And Your voice inside my heart sayin'

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

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Street Spirituality



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.