

Courage is...by Strange Familiar

Take all my vicious words and turn them into something good
Take all my preconceptions and let the truth be understood
Take all my prized possessions and leave only what I need
Take all my pieces of doubt and let me be what's underneath

*Courage is when you're afraid but you keep on moving anyway
Courage is when you're in pain but you keep on living anyway*

We all have excuses why
living in fear something in us dies
Like a bird with broken wings,
its not how high he flies but the song he sings

It's not how many times you've been knocked down
It's how many times you get back up
Courage is when you've lost your way
but you find your strength anyway

Courage is when you're afraid
Courage is when it all seems grey
Courage is when you make a change
and you keep on living anyway
You keep on moving anyway
You keep on giving anyway
You keep on loving anyway

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

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1/31/2017

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God Within You



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,
listening & direction

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: Discovering the True Self in God with
Merton's Guidance by Ilia Delio*

The search for true identity requires an honest self-love. Love of self is not selfishness but a humble recognition of our lives as true, good and beautiful. Without real love of self, all other loves are distorted. ... Merton realized that so many people are weighed down by deep hurts, anger, resentment, lost loves, broken relationships, desperately seeking to fill their lives with happiness and peace. As he himself was searching for truth and identity, he came to a deep insight, that each human person already has what they are looking for: "Within myself ... I am held in being by my Creator."

Merton thought that to live the truth of our own existence is to be a saint. "A tree is holy," he wrote, "simply by being a tree;" flowers are saints gazing up into the face of God. We humans are no less called to be ourselves and in being ourselves to radiate the glory of God. However, very few people grasp the holiness of their lives. Rather, there is an implicit belief that God is watching from above and that we have to make our way to heaven to see God. Merton said, "We cannot go to heaven because we do not know where heaven is or what it is," so God comes to us. God comes down from heaven and finds us, just as God sought Adam in the Garden of Eden. There is nothing we can do or say that can alienate God from our lives. We can disown God, but God cannot disown us because God cannot disown God's own self; the self that is the very source of our lives. (2 Timothy 2:13)

Merton understood this mystery by saying "our discovery of God is, in a way, God's discovery of us." Our praying to God is God praying in us. Our lives and God's life are so intertwined that loving God is God loving God's own self in us. Prayer is waking up to this reality, coming to a new consciousness of God's in-dwelling presence. "We become contemplatives," Merton wrote, "when God discovers himself in us." So God does not desire that we become anything other than the true self which God has loved from all eternity.

*Reading: When I am Among the Trees
Mary Oliver*

When I am among the trees.
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness, I would almost say
they save me daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
And never hurry in the world
But walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...