

To Ponder:

Is there a Christian alive who has not struggled with a dual nature? Probably not. The Spirit enables us to live godly lives, but our tendency to do so is sporadic. While our spirit is often willing, the flesh remains weak. Two natures in one body can make for an exhausting struggle.

The burden of the divided heart is common in Scripture. It is the burden of which Paul wrote in Romans 7—"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." It is the same contradiction Peter felt, claiming one evening that he could never forsake his Lord, then denying Him three times the same dark night. Fr Martin says, "We do not wake up in the morning asking ourselves, how am I going to hurt God today?" Every thing that we do is to please ourselves, have breakfast, take a walk, go to the movies..." Henri Nouwen believes our dual nature is a part of human nature where we place "ourselves in the center of our personal universe. God then becomes our servant alert to our beck and call."

Living a life committed to the movement of the Holy Spirit has more to do with us catching up to God. Nouwen says it is because we are slow to hear; slow to understand; slow to yield; so slow to respond.

But time and time again we see in Scripture that God answers the prayer of the psalmist: an undivided heart is possible. Our focus as children and disciples of God is to place God at the center of our universe. Our response upon waking each day is to ask, "What does God ask of me this day?" And our battle to be holy as God is holy is to be aware of all that would compete for the throne of God in your heart. Take your attention off of it, whatever it is, and put it on the breathtaking beauty of God. Be captivated by Him alone. "We should therefore, truly appreciate God as the One who is ahead of us, but who reaches back to draw us forward." (Nouwen)

Reading:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

Eye Has Not Seen Marty Haugen

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard
what God has ready for those who love Him;
Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus,
teach us the wisdom of God.

When pain and sorrow weigh us down
be near to us, O Lord,
Forgive the weakness of our faith,
and bear us up within your peaceful word.

Our lives are but a single breath,
we flower and we fade,
Yet all our days are in your hands,
so we return in love what love has made.

We sing a mystery from the past
in halls where saints have trod,
Yet ever new the music rings
to Jesus, Living Song of God.

Prayer Leader

Mary Timko

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Catching Up With God



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.