

To Ponder:

Living the Gospel

By Syndie Eardly

Everything we need to live in peace, harmony and happiness is already within us. We are born with the innate capacity to live in unity with this reality. A child has this knowing, waking joyfully to greet the day, living constantly in the present moment.

We seem to “unlearn” this capacity as we grow into adulthood, bombarded with so many messages about the importance of education and acquisition and success. When those outward expressions fail to bring us peace, harmony or happiness, we come back to the Bible looking for better answers than the World has given us in our formative years.

Of course, intellectually, we know that the Gospel makes sense. And we can all recite Book, Chapter and Verse of all the wisdom that is contained there. We take these words in, over and over again in our churches or in our own private reading. We then intellectualize or rationalize or interpret what those words mean.

But the words are still in our head, empty of meaning until we begin to live them; that is...take them into our daily life and really experience what they mean. This takes practice. It takes the effort of building the habit. We learn forgiveness by actually forgiving someone or having the experience of being forgiven. We learn gratitude by “practicing” gratitude. That may mean, sometimes, seeing the silver lining in something we are NOT grateful for and focusing our attention on the positive that emerges from a dark cloud.

The Gospel can never be truly real or comprehensible to us until it becomes a lived experience, until we not only espouse the principles that it teaches, but immerse ourselves in the rich substance of all that it means here, today, now, in this moment, in this individual life experience that our spiritual being is manifesting.

Reading:

Psalm 25: 4-10

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

Song
This Is
By Liam Lawton

Refrain

This is what God now asks of you,
Three things that I want you to do:
To act justly, to love tenderly
And to walk humbly with your God.

Blessed are you when you call my name;
I will hear you when you cry.
Blessed are you when you know your shame;
I will lift your soul on high.
Rejoice, for now has come your time.
Rejoice, you become love's sign.

Refrain

Blessed are the ones who work for peace;
May you rest in heaven's care.
Blessed are you who know hunger's grief;
Justice will be yours some day.
Rejoice, though tears have strewn your way
Rejoice, in my Kingdom you shall stay.

Refrain

Thank You For Joining Us!

Your Prayer Leader

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To truly understand the Gospel, we must live it.



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.