

I Hope You Dance

Lee Ann Womack

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder  
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger  
May you never take one single breath for granted  
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed  
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the  
ocean Whenever one door closes I hope one more  
opens Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting  
chance And when you get the choice to sit it out or  
dance...

I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance  
Never settle for the path of least resistance  
Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth  
takin' Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin'  
Don't let some Hell-bent heart leave you bitter  
When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider  
Give the heavens above more than just a passing  
glance,

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant  
motion always rolling us along)

I hope you dance

I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back  
on their years and wonder)

I hope you dance (Where those years have gone?)

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the  
ocean Whenever one door closes I hope one more  
opens Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting  
chance And when you get the choice to sit it out or  
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Dance

I hope you dance

- Mary Timko 1/3/2017

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

# What Is Prayer, But Hope.



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.

*Thank You For Joining Us!*

## To Ponder:

Thoughts of Blind Beggar by Gerard Straub

In the sea of dysfunction and destruction that engulfs so much of this modern life, the end of isolation, there is an island where hope abounds, a sacred space that nurtures the soul. That island has a name: prayer. Prayer is about loving and being loved; an intimacy with God that grows freely. Through prayer we become at home with the living presence with whom we can share everything. Prayer fosters within us a spirit of humility and the realization that we cannot truly live without God.

This prayer life, this hope, is a call to holiness. An invitation to enter fully into a committed relationship with God. God's response graciously nurtures the relationship using events, circumstances, and people in our lives as instruments to hasten a contemplative outlook on life. Prayer becomes a vital part of our day; and, in prayer, we encounter more fully the Author of our life. This personal encounter with the Creator slowly transforms us into a Divine likeness, as it gently erases all traces of the un-God-like stuff within us. In prayer, we unlock the vault to our deepest self and allow light to shine on God who is already abiding at the very core of our being, hidden from us yet patiently waiting for us.

Praying creates an awareness of God's presence in the here-and-now. And that awareness elicits a response. Prayer and charity are soul-mates. A life of contemplation and a life of action are not mutually exclusive. Prayer stimulates a mindfulness of God, which in turn stimulates acts of love and mercy. Acknowledging my own weakness increases my ability to be more merciful toward others. Love is service. It is the emptying of self. It is losing in order to find.

The words above, taken from, *Thoughts of a Blind Beggar*, challenge me. What are the fruits of my prayer? I know how to praise and worship. But do I truly listen? If prayer is indeed hope, how do I take from my heart what it needs to spread the hope beyond me? How do I give the hope of God to another?

I believe that it begins in the hope of becoming the person I am meant to be, the Christian I am meant to be. And if I understand Gerard Straub correctly, there are people that need more than just my prayers. Our growth in prayer, our intimacy with God, gives us the chance to be a hope for others. Just as God sends us events and people and circumstances in order for us to grow spiritually, we can be sent to others so that they too may know the depth of God's love and grow spiritually. God is here for all of us, and we are here for one another. Hope is given and hope goes on. Hope in God is the oxygen for every soul.

## The Word:

Isaiah 61-1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

## Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection