

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WE... GO DEEPER IN OUR PARTICULAR SPIRITUALITY

Seek God and God's strength; seek God's presence continually. Psalm 105: 4

Open my senses to your presence that I may love you and care for you in all things. John Phillip Newell

To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul. Simone Weil

The great prayer is an awareness of God's Presence and God's hope and love for all of us together. I want to lead an active life out of **deep prayer and silence**. As I hang out with God, I find my way. I lead with a life of prayer where prayer is a 24/7 attention to and awareness of God's Presence and love holding us all in one safe and connecting love. My smallness is absorbed in God's largeness.

The role of deep quiet is in awakening. Quiet is not thinking as much as being...being as hanging out with oneself and hanging out with God...**being** as the core center of true and faithful and loving **doing**. I seek to be quiet enough, still enough, to be rightly open to my full self in God, who is fully present before me, within me, through me...and thereby rightly open to the unfolding of the right paths for me in God...**making space for God** in finding my way...to living life and doing ministry shaped through the calls for justice that come to me.

Richard Rohr: One of the reasons I founded the Center for Action and Contemplation was to give activists some **grounding in spirituality** so they could continue working for social change, but from a stance much different than anger, ideology, or willpower pressing against opposing willpower. Many activists I knew loved Gandhi's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s teachings on nonviolence. But it became clear to me that theirs was often an intellectual appreciation rather than a **participation in the much deeper mystery**. I saw people on the left playing the victim and creating victims--exactly what Jesus did not do. It was much more subtle than the same game on the right, but it still proceeded from an unkind and self-righteous heart.

Richard Rohr: True wisdom requires a **spiritual state to complete the "logic."** Mature spirituality insists that we hold out for meaning instead of settling for mere *answers*. Wisdom is necessarily and always partially hidden, and reveals herself only to those who really want her and will not try to make a commodity of her. It is precisely the same with God, I think. You cannot even imagine something or do something until you first have **an image of it in your being**. This is surely why Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than intelligence." All the logic and reason in the world will not change us unless we allow that logic to change our inner symbolic universe.

Thomas Merton: One cannot apprehend a symbol unless one is able to awaken, in one's own being, the spiritual resonances which respond to the symbol not only as sign but as 'sacrament' and 'presence.' The symbol is an object pointing to a subject. **We are summoned to a deeper spiritual awareness, far beyond the level of subject and object.**

Parker Palmer: To be fully alive is to act. To be fully alive is to contemplate...and they must be held together. The only thing we have to bring to community is ourselves, so the contemplative process of recovering our true selves in solitude is never selfish. It is ultimately the gift we can give to others. Wholeness is found downward to the depths. Right action demands that we find a deeper and truer source of energy and guidance than relevance, power, and spectacle can provide.

Our life is called to be much more awe and wonder over God's grace moves and much less over our moves.

Richard Rohr: before we act, we need to wait...wait for communion, wait until we are reconnected to the Ground of our Being, wait until we are conscious, wait until a 'yes' appears.

Parker Palmer: Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, **listen** to what it intends to do with you.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WE...
GO DEEPER IN DISCERNING OUR PARTICULAR JUSTICE MOVES**

Jesus: Come...follow me...
...love your neighbor as yourself...
“...to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.” Micah 6: 8

To live Jesus is to lead with the inner life and trust the right steps will be there in the outer life. To live Jesus is to move from professing our faith to living our faith. To live Jesus, we must get out of the pew and live our faith and love in the world. To live Jesus, we speak less and we listen more. To live Jesus, we walk the earth more and more aware of the human injustices right before us and around us and consider how we might address them in our small way. To live Jesus raises the dead in the sense of bringing people alive in a new way. To live Jesus is to remember that “*the government is upon his shoulders.*” Before God we get only a little piece of life, of relationship, of power, of understanding. We trust this little bit with gratitude and **do our small part with joy.**

Holy people are transparent for the loving God and give themselves in love to their neighbors. Miroslav Volf

The cross speaks of God’s determination to stick with us and our determination to stick with each other.

Move from superficial righteousness to a righteousness of right relationship, to a right relationship of greater love.

If you are to negotiate this tricky terrain of intimacy, you must have a strong commitment to mutuality.
Eugene Peterson

Jesus: "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly."...our word to the Christ-presence in each human life.

A father's way...you go first...here, let me help you.

I will **live simply** that my transformation into simplicity may gift others and we all may simply live.

Jesus kept leaving the religious box, the boundaries of his faith tradition...connecting with women, with foreigners, with other religions, with outcasts...asking a question and then shutting up and listening until, in his listening, transformation came.

The true active life is birthed out of **an interior seeing and receiving contemplation** of loving God and loving neighbor. All true life is called to be active and interactive, mutuality and an underlying oneness amidst our differences. We **begin with our oneness** and then and only then see our diversity and differences.

I traveled the banks of the River of Jordan, To find where it flows to the sea.
I looked in the eyes of the cold and the hungry. And I saw I was looking at me.
I wanted to know if life had a purpose. And what it all means in the end.
In the silence I listened to voices inside me. And they told me again and again.
There is only one river, there is only one sea.
And it flows through you, and it flows through me.
There is only one people, we are one and the same.
We are all one spirit, we are all one name.
We are the father, mother, daughter and son.
From the dawn of creation, we are one, we are one, we are one.

The River of Jordan by Peter Yarrow

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