

Creating Sacred Space
Devotionals for the Perplexed
(And Most Anyone Else)

E-Book

By

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**A devotional guide provided by Restoring
Grace**

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This E-Book is dedicated to Pastor Betty France, who lovingly taught me that looking both ways before crossing the street is to benefit others, and not just myself.

To my wife Jana, an unbelievable source of Light from the Creator. She gave me the opportunity to try again, and I live each day hoping to measure worthy.

To Ruth Esther Ingraham (of Blessed Memory), my Grandmother, who expressed the highest form of love was truth.

Peace, Love and Light to all that read on from here...

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Introduction

For many of us, connecting to God is a Sunday activity. It centers on a specific location and a specific religious routine. For most of us, this specific route is specifically... unfulfilling.

Being connected to God is more than a service; it is a relationship of ongoing dialogue and involvement. It is more than a church, more than a denomination, and in fact, more than all of Christianity combined. It is you and the Creator together on a path. The following eighteen articles are short and concise writings designed to provoke thought. My goal here is to express some thoughts and ideas I have found useful, and I hope you will as well. Fulfillment is about depth and not width.

As you read these 5-10 minute articles, I pray that the Divine Spark in each of you awakens to a new level of curiosity and direction. If this e-book can accomplish that goal, then it has far surpassed my dreams for it.

As you read through this material, questions may arise. Here is my contact information and available resources. I welcome your input and would be honored to carry on the creating of sacred space with you.

God be with you on this and every journey you take for Him!

David

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Eliminating the Victim Mindset

For many years, the Rabbis and Sages have taught on the importance of taking Personal responsibility. The Torah addresses this concept, but most modern societies, especially the American Christian,, promote a sense of “victim” mind-set. People often tell me they feel “powerless” and “out of control” in the events of their lives.

Each one of us has the opportunity to utilize the gift that God has given us. God makes Himself available to us to bring His Light into our lives. He asks that we seek the Light by recognizing His presence and involvement in our world. Our faith in God’s ability to help us is crucial in bringing His warmth and love into our lives.

Here is a prayer for us to use when we feel like we cannot control our lives:

I am not a victim.

The path I take is up to me.

I will be proactive and take control of my current situation.

I am suffering from (enter your specific affliction here) but I know God can bring healing.

With each breath, I am filled with the Light and restorative power of the Creator.

I focus the Light like a radar beam on the afflicted area. I see my internal chaos and push it away with God’s help.

As healing Light fills me, I focus on (pray for someone else’s need here).

My prayers for this person will send warmth and Light into their life and they will feel the love and protection of God.

Sexual Energy

For years in the church I attended, Sex was always talked about in a dirty or negative aspect. It was long lectures on pre-marital sex, pornography, homosexuality, affairs, adultery and so on. By the time I was 15, I was pretty sure that I wanted nothing to do with sex.

On top of that, we watched films that taught us about diseases we could only get through contact with women. These diseases could cause parts of our bodies to fall off and rot. What a beautiful way to express the importance of Sex to young people.

The Song of Solomon does not make any sense unless it is read as it was meant to be read-an erotic review of the relationship between two people-ramping up their sexual experience through erotic language and imagery. Here are a few quotes from the man writing to the woman. All quotes are from the Song of Solomon (NCV).

7:6-9 "You are beautiful and pleasant my love; you are full of delights. You are tall like a palm tree and your breasts like its fruits. I said, "I will climb up the palm tree and take hold of its fruit." Let your breasts be like bunches of grapes and your breath like the smell of apples, and your mouth, like the best wine."

4:3+5 "Your lips are like red silk thread; and your mouth is lovely. Your breasts are like two fawns, feeding among the lilies."

Got the picture? The rest of the book is about the chasing and pursuing of each other. There were tons of other examples but I thought the above info should send you reeling for your Bibles to look at the rest. You won't be disappointed.

Sex is the amazing physical union, created for us by God, to depict in the physical realm what happens in the spiritual realm. The kind of "oneness" described in the Shema, Judaism's most loved and repeated prayer, tells us of an inseparable bond between God and His creation. In the same way the act of intercourse forms an inseparable union between male and female, God desires us to be united in Him. If this seems odd to you, re-read the comments of Jesus in John 17 about His Oneness with the Father.

It is time to re-energize our marital relationships and understand the beauty and awesomeness of Sex. The shared intimacy and pleasure, the arousal, the pursuit, should be elements that heat up the relationship for years to come. Seek out ways to bring pleasure and satisfaction to your partner, devote yourself to their fulfillment, and watch the sparks fly.

Here is a prayer for us all as we approach the Divine act of Sex.

I will approach sex with passion, fully present, putting my lover's needs before my own.

When we are together, we will be a part of the Divine Universe, fully connected to the Light and Love we are generating.

During Sex, I will be tuned in, letting go of my own desires, and allowing the genuine care and unity I share with my partner to radiate into the cosmos.

Getting Re-charged

As a Christian, I have been to a few church services. Along with “pass the bucket”, another seldom missed event is someone making the proclamation, “I am so glad I came to church today. I really needed to get my spiritual batteries re-charged”. While the saying is quaint and widely popular across denominational lines, it is evidence of a deeper problem with our mainline Christianity-for most Christians-getting charged is a weekly event, not a daily one.

As a former pastor/ minister, it was very frustrating to hear week after week how the congregants were so spiritually exhausted with such little fruit to show for it.

For the Jews, The Sabbath comes rescue us from the mundane. Sabbath helps elevate the other days by its nature. We keep our daily practices in full swing so we can be fully vested for participation in Sabbath.

One of the daily practices is the nightly prayer. Judaism teaches that at night, God removes your soul from your body to clean it, returning it to you before you awake. The Psalmist David told us that God restores his soul. Every wonder how that happens?

Most of us have experienced terrifying dreams and feelings while sleeping. The Rabbis and Sages teach that evil abounds in darkness and tries to attach itself to you while you sleep. That is why Judaism embraces washing of your hands every morning when awaking. It symbolizes the removal of those evil glances/attempts.

I believe we can ask God for nightly protection and renewal. Here is a prayer I like to use before hitting the sheets:

I am at peace.

As I fall asleep, I clear my mind and allow the Light of the Creator into my dreams.

My soul is open to the truth, to His love. I feel its ascension.

By letting go of the daily chaos, renewal is mine.

The Lord God will renew my soul and I will be renewed and elevated each morning.

I will share my Light with others.

As we have discussed before, we have two main purposes here on the earth. First, to learn as much as we can about God and pursue Him for the ultimate and enduring fulfillment of life. Secondly, to help repair the world, bringing the return Messiah closer as we overcome the evil with our good.

Victims and Vampires

As the lyrics go to the song by Scandal, sometimes we need to say, Goodbye to You, to some of the victims and vampires in our lives. The truth is, and I have no problem telling it like it is, bill collectors are not the only ones you cringe at when the caller ID shows “the name that cannot be named”. I am talking about the person you just do not want to talk to.

Each of us has a responsibility to answer to God for our time, and we often know when the person we are investing in and working with is trying to succeed, or if they are trying to leach off our Light. But our own stubbornness will sometimes give us an excuse to go further and longer than we should.

Now, you are probably thinking these are harsh words coming from a guy that promotes sharing and investing in people, and in working hard to correct the world. The fact is, we owe it to God to take action when we see precious resources, such as our time, training efforts and support, not reaping a harvest in the life of the person. The Sages teach that we only have so many words and so much time before the call home, and to use them wisely.

I am very guilty of this offence. I find myself rooting more for their success than they do. What started out as an investment has become a drain on time and resources. I needed to tell myself the truth: God can take care of the people I cannot seem to reach. That moment of powerlessness was hard to swallow, but has freed me to invest wisely. Jesus Himself said, “Do not cast your pearls before swine”.

Remember, pigs will eat anything and that is one of the reasons they are pigs. Some people in our lives are not going anywhere and we need an answer for dealing with them. We know they may never change, but our approach to them can change and we can use them to grow spiritually on our Path. God will even allow these people in our lives for our growth, not just theirs.

Here is a prayer for your consideration...

I do not want negative, spiritually bankrupt people in my life.

(Perhaps there is someone in particular you are struggling with. Visualize that person as you read on)

I see them going away.

I am blocking them from my Light and Desire for God.

I am allowing the Spirit of the Creator to fill and surround me, keeping out other

negative forces and people.

As more of God flows through me, I attract others full of godly energy and desire. The destructive forces are pushed away, and people who carry those traits are blocked out.

One of the true characteristics of spiritual development understands that you and I have power (through God) to take charge of our circumstances. We can change our perspective, which often changes our vision of the situation. Time to let a few people know... Goodbye to the Drama!

The Sin of Adam

The Rabbis and Sages pour over the texts of Scripture looking for every little jot, every dot, every marker, making sure they have not missed any possible conclusion or outcome to the texts. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts. There are many sacred texts that recount their findings, such as the Mishnah, The Ethics of Our Fathers, the Talmud (just to name a few) and a rather stunning text, some 23 volumes long, known as The Zohar (The Splendor).

The Zohar contains many stories about the Torah and the characters that appear within its pages. One such story is the subject of our article. Very few Biblical characters are as well known as Adam. Much of the glory of his story has been diminished by the fact he is best known as the cause of "The Fall of Man". We will now turn to a section of the text of the Zohar for a keen insight about Adam.

Hear these words...

"So it is that when a man is about to depart from life, Adam, the first man, appears to him to ask why and in what state he leaves the world. The man replies, "Woe to thee, that through thee I have to die". To which Adam replies, "My son, I transgressed one commandment and was punished for so doing, see how many commandments of your Master, negative and positive, you have transgressed".

For years I was raised in a church environment that embraced the idea that we currently live in the Age of Grace, and that the Age of the Law of Moses, is done. The Old Testament is about an angry God, taking vengeance on those that disobey Him with acts of violence, death and plague. Surprisingly, this was the whole teaching premise of an early church influencer named Marcion.

His doctrines, while as a wholesale we rejected, parts were engrained deeply into Christian thought and Theology. But Adam's narrative here expresses an interesting change in God's approach:

God started the Age of Grace right after the Garden, not some 2,000 years later. Adam's point is clear; he was judged quickly and severely. He lost his immortality, his perfect environment and his direct connection with the Light of the Creator.

You and I do not fall under that same judgment. God's grace started immediately after the Garden of Eden and extends to all today. This is not a license (as mentioned by the Apostle Paul) to sin and expect to live unscathed by God. As a matter of fact, if you are currently living out of fellowship with God, with un-confessed sin in your life, and you are not experiencing God's Right Hand, remember, He chastises those He loves. Sometimes we allow our connection to get so weak, we think we are not being watched.

When Adam comes to me on that final day, and asks me about "the what and why" of my world, I will tell him I wrote about him once. Maybe he will give me a tour of the World to Come, my home after death.

Death Before Dying

Over the weekend, my wife and I rented the documentary, "This Is It", starring Michael Jackson. The theme of the film was the rehearsals surrounding the much-publicized return of Michael Jackson to the music world and eventually a world tour.

The film starts out recording the auditions for dancers and singers, all whom seemed very emotional about the opportunity to work with Michael Jackson. The remainder of the documentary shows the intense practices, including the spectacular stage settings and mind-blowing props. In my mind, they were way further along in production and overall readiness than I had imagined.

I am moving quickly through this to get to the reason I am writing this article. Worth noting, even though I am not a Michael Jackson fan, the DVD is worth the rental.

I realize that the documentary was edited to place Michael Jackson in the best possible light, given the many challenges he was facing in his attempted comeback. But I can tell you for sure, not one person in that production was considering the option that they would be soon unemployed because Michael Jackson would die before the show even made its debut.

Watching the video and seeing him dancing and singing, I would not have predicted that the so-called "King of Pop" would be gone from this world in short notice. As his story was later revealed, he had been addicted to an assortment of prescription drugs that eventually lead to his earthly demise.

Michael Jackson, just a couple of years older than I am today, is dead. His music lives on, they say, but given the choice, Michael Jackson might be willing to trade his music legacy for another shot at "living". That is the point. Many of us are carrying in us our death, even before dying. I am referring to a spiritual death, the part of us that will not forgive, will not forget, will not love, will not think of others first.

Some are carrying the weight of guilt from past failures and disappointments. Some of us have major moral failures in our past that seemingly live themselves out before us everyday. This is the work of our Adversary, working hard to blind us all from the Light of the Creator; lest we see firsthand God's desire and plan for our lives.

Here is a prayer for us all:

God, in Your infinite Power, reach into my soul, and in cooperation with the effort I give You, remove the death before dying.

Give me the opportunities to right the places I have made wrong, and to accept

what is mine and fiercely reject what is not.

May the accomplishments that I achieve through this process bring You the

Glory.

Dear Lord, Help this be the prayer for us all.

I know for many of you reading this article, you believe that Michael Jackson got exactly what he deserved. For those of you that think like that, I pray you get exactly what you have coming as well.

For those of us that draw daily from the sweet waters of forgiveness, may God sweeten His judgments against us all, and reward us based on our obedience and not our accusatory actions.

God's grace is extended to all, regardless of how we feel towards each other. Today, regardless of how others feel towards you, God's grace and forgiveness are available right now, so that none of us live a death before dying.

Think deeply on these things...

Dialing God

Prayer is an everyday and commonplace event in the life of Christianity. For most Christians, prayer is what we do when a need arises, a prayer service is called, or a great tragedy occurs. Prayer is when we stop talking to humans and start talking to God.

Oddly, the Scriptures do not make any mention of prayer in such a light. Prayer is the connection between the Upper Worlds and us. It reaches into the Throne Room of God. It creates a conversation between the Father, who is listening, the Spirit, who is making sense out of our words, and Jesus, who is standing in for us.

In the Book of Daniel, we are told that a spiritual battle fought in the heavens held back the Angel from delivering the answer to Daniel. This teaches us the importance of understanding blockages. Blockages occur when we put things over our lives, blocking out the connection of the Light of the Creator.

When we sin, when we fall short, when we are controlled by our Desire to Receive for Self-Alone, we cover the Light in our lives, much like placing a blanket over a lamp in your home. The light is still on, drawing power and illuminating, but not affecting the environment around it.

Some people have deeply concealed, or covered, the Light of the Creator in their lives. This explains why some people take much more time and training for them to get back on the Path, while others remove one simply obvious blockage and regain their vision.

We must understand clearly that any blockage, any restriction that occurs in our lives that holds back the Light of the Creator, is in our lives as a result of our actions and choices. We are not victims. Through the power of genuine connectivity with God, we can banish the darkness and obtain the Light.

Here is a prayer that I think might help.

I will quiet the static that blocks my spiritual path.

I see chaos and difficulties, negative energy that I have created, standing in the way of my Light Source.

One by one, I remove the obstructions.

As I throw them away, the Light becomes brighter and clearer.

I am connected to God, the line is clear.

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