

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN  
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.  
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM  
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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## God's Thought Toward You

Dear Saint, have you ever sat quietly and wondered what God's thought was toward you –what He actually desired for you? What "one thing" does your heavenly Father desire for you and for me, and for every other "true" born-again son or daughter that walks the earth at this very moment? I mean, if you and God met face-to-face and you asked your Father what He desired of you, what would He say? Would He say that He wanted you to be a good person and to love your neighbors? Would He tell you that He wanted you to pray and read His word more? Do you think that He would say that He wanted you to go to church, tithe to the church, and serve there? Do you suppose that God would tell you that He wanted you to become a missionary, or to start a ministry for children or the poor? Asking this question may seem silly and foolish to you, but I would suggest that it is critical to our spiritual growth and good standing with our God and Father.

May I suggest that you stop reading this message for a few minutes and quietly ask your heavenly Father the question: "Father, what one thing do you desire of me? What one thing would bring you the most pleasure concerning me?" If you will sincerely, from your heart, ask our Father this question, He will answer you, and He will confirm His answer through His word.

Recently, I found myself wondering what Father's thought was toward me – individually. As I sat in the quietness of my study, early in the morning, I began to meditate on this question and as I did, as is so often the case, I was led to Father's word. There in His word, He answered me, and He did so in simplicity and with great clarity. I would suggest that His answer to my question concerning what His desire for me was, is the exact same answer that He gives to each son and daughter that asks the same question that I asked. You see, Father is no respecter of persons (see Galatians 2: 6). What He will do for me, He will do for you.

Many of Father's sons and daughters live and die, never coming into their full potential in Christ, because they either consciously, or subconsciously, thought that they were second class Christians when it came to those on the platform (in leadership) and those in the pew. May God have mercy on those in leadership who choose to think of themselves as being "special" in God's eyes and those they lead as being "under" or "below" their position. There are no second class sons and daughters in God's house – None!

**"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."  
(Matthew 20: 16)**

May I suggest that all those “chosen” by our Father, are all equal in His eyes. So dear reader, as we listen to Father’s answer to our question at hand, let us realize that it is the same answer that He gives to each of us.

“Father, what is Your heart’s desire for those of us that You have called to be Your own? What one thing would bring You the most pleasure as it relates to us individually?”

-----It is written -----

**“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren.” (Romans 8: 29) Emphasis Added**

**“To be conformed to the Image of His Son”!** What does God desire of you, of me, more than anything else in life? **To be conformed to the Image of His Son?** Nothing more, nothing less, than simply **being conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ.**

Dear Saints, it cannot get any simpler than that. The only thing that Father has ever desired of you or me is to be conformed to the Image of His Son. It makes no difference who you are, how much education you have or do not have. It makes no difference what your race is, what your nationality is, how much money you have. It makes no difference whether you are young or old, tall or short, fat or thin – If you are “truly born-again” (John 3:3) and are in fact the “offspring of God” (Acts 17: 18 & 29), you have within you the potential to be fully conformed into the Image of Jesus Christ. If anyone tells you differently, believe me, they are not your friend!

What does it mean to be conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ? Webster defines the English word “conform” as follows: “To be similar or identical – to agree and comply”. Secondly, Webster defines the word “image” as follows: “A likeness or imitation of a person – a person strikingly like another person”.

If one is to believe God’s word, you cannot deny that our Father’s desire is that each of us be changed from what we are in our carnal flesh, and be “conformed” into a similar or identical likeness of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. It is clear from Father’s word that even before we were born, our Father desired that we would be conformed to His likeness and image as revealed in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. In fact, He says that He predestined us to this transformation, not to “become” Christ but to become “like” Him – to become an “Imitation” of Him. As it is written -----

**“God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1: 27)**

**“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.” (Ephesians 5: 1)**

It is true that “we” cannot transform ourselves into the likeness of Christ by our own efforts. It is an absolute impossibility that any man or woman can transform themselves into His image in their own strength. However, it is entirely possible for God Himself to transform us from within. As it is written -----

**“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19: 26)**

**“Without Me you can do nothing”. (John 15: 5)**

But with Christ we can do all things as Paul declared.

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4: 13)**

As long as Father’s sons and daughters absorb His word and choose to embrace that word regardless of their inability to perform that word on their own, Father will be faithful to confirm His word in them. Again, it is written:

**“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1: 6)**

Our Father will complete His good work in each of us who are called of Him (Romans 8:28). However, we must cooperate with Him by exercising our “free will” in His favor. In other words, we listen to our Father as He speaks through His word – we freely choose to believe Him and we also freely choose to “do” as He says. He then enables us to “do” by the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells us, as it is written:

**“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”  
(Zechariah 4: 6)**

This entire process of being transformed from what we are into what God wants us to be is a God event. It starts with God. God is involved every step of the way as He molds and shapes us and prepares us to take our rightful place in His Kingdom. Finally, God brings to completion His good work in us. This entire process is a “One-on-one” process of God and you – God and me. And it is nothing more or less than God completing His work in man, as it is written:

**“Then God said, Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;” (Genesis 1: 26)**

Now, let me caution you not to think this process to be automatic, and that your transformation is a certainty. I can assure you that that is not the case, and God’s word to us clearly warns us that if we fail to choose Him and His word – If we fail to choose to obey Him in all matters that He has addressed, and we choose to follow our own human reasoning, the dictates of our own heart -- We then run the risk of not being chosen by Him in the end. Jesus Himself said:

**“For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22: 14) Emphasis Added**

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7: 21-23) Emphasis Added**

The modern day form of Christianity which bears little, if any, resemblance to New Testament Christianity has made God's way into His Kingdom easy and user friendly. Modern day Christianity in all of its various flavors is quite content as long as her numbers are increasing, the pews filled or filling, and of course, as long as the money continues to flow into the system. Modern day Christianity's central focus and concern is on herself, the church, the body. She worships herself. She has become a body worshiper, not a Head worshiper. Of course, she believes in the Head and sincerely believes that as long as she uses the Name of Jesus Christ that she is in good standing with Him. It is the very same mentality that our Lord encountered from God's people who made up the church of His day. They were sincere, had God's word, believed in God and supported their institution. However, their sincerity ended up butchering, as if He were no more than an animal, the God of Glory. The One who came to set them free from the religious spirits of hell was rejected, because of who He said He was and because of His command that they obey Him above all other flesh, including their own family members. Is it much different today? Are we all that different from the religious ones that Jesus found here on earth when He visited us in the flesh? As a whole, do we actually reflect His likeness and image more than did our forefathers of the First century Church? I am absolutely convinced that we do not! I have arrived at that conclusion after years of research, much prayer and at least a measure of revelation from the Spirit of God Himself.

Dear reader, I believe that as a whole, we are in spiritual decline. Our decline started as the Apostles were concluding their writings. They warned us and did so with clarity, just as our Lord did. Our decline has now entered into "spiritual freefall". In other words, just as knowledge is increasing at an ever increasing rate, so is our spiritual decline. Ground rush is upon us. It cannot be reversed! We are at the mercy of the One True God who demands that we give Him all of our love, that we separate ourselves from the lusts of the world, and that we worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. God will not compromise with man. He will not! We can believe whatever we want to believe. We can be a member of any religious institution that we want to be a member of. We can follow and submit ourselves to any man or woman that we want to follow, and we can kiss the Popes ring ----- but know this ----- It is written -----

**“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges Him ---- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”**  
(Jesus' own words John 12: 48)

----- May God have mercy on all of us! -----

Oh dear saints, may God grant us – you and me – the grace to hear His voice as He cries out through His word. Oh that He would grant us the grace to slip into the slippers of the sister with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20 & 21), having the same attitude of heart that she had ----

**“And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” (Matthew 9: 20 & 21) Emphasis Added**

Our “issue of blood” today is our sickness and disease along with our divorce rate, our lust for the world and its glitter. Our “issue of blood” today is our insatiable appetite for sex, violence and the sensual pleasures of our flesh that continually cry “more, more”. Our “issue of blood” today is our greed and lust for money along with our strife and division. Our “issue of blood” today is our religious pride and lack of Agape Love. Our “issue of blood” today is our doubt and unbelief along with hearts that do not know

God, and that do not fear Him. Combined, all of these issues reflect Adam --- They do not reflect Jesus Christ and they are a stench --- a foul odor before our Holy God.

Let's face it dear reader. Let's be honest for once before our Father, we have an "issue of blood" and if ever a human needed to touch the hem of the garment of Jesus Christ, we need to do so. All of our religious efforts, all of our books, tapes, conferences, sermons, and money, have failed --- and failed miserably. As the days turned into weeks --- weeks into months --- months into years, and now for many of us --- years have become decades. All the while our form has increased (2 Timothy 3:5) and our power has decreased. The fruit of our labors, for the most part has just been more of the same, only gradually worse. Our fruit on its best day is frost bit, and on its worst day falls prematurely from the tree.

We, like sheep without a Shepherd, have lost our way. However, all hope is not lost. The fact that I am writing this message and that you are reading it indicates to me that we are still being called back to Him -- to the Head --- to the true Shepherd. All we need do is to turn from our religious prison cell and choose to flee to Him. It will be difficult because many around us will not hear His call much less find "the way". This is sad indeed, but not to be unexpected. As it is written ----

**"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."** (Matthew 7: 14) *Emphasis Added*

This journey is all about "the many and the few" -- "the called and the chosen" -- those who have a love for the Truth and are willing to go where ever Truth takes them and those who follow the dictates of their own heart -- loving themselves more than they love Him. It is a difficult journey and few of us will actually find our way. However, for the few that do, sweet is the sound of His voice ---

**"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14: 6)

**"Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."** (John 18: 37b)

**"He who loves father and mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."**  
(Matthew 10: 37 – 39)

**"Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."**  
(Luke 14: 33)

**"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for My names sake, shall receive a hundred fold and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."**  
(Matthew 19: 29 & 30)

Do these words sound easy to you? Are we prepared to actually be transformed into the Image of the One who spoke them? Are we willing to allow our Father to grant us the grace to literally crucify the remainder of our flesh, especially our religious flesh? We cannot do it on our own, but we must choose

to allow Him to proceed with His hearts desire to see us transformed into His likeness and image. He will not over-ride our free will. The choice is ours to make. We choose whom to believe – God or some man, woman or institution who purports to speak for Him. In the end our spiritual limitations will come from within. Each of us will be limited by our own affections. (2 Corinthians 6: 12)

If the Spirit of God is within a man or woman, He will be at work transforming that person from within their heart, while at the same time that persons affections, as good as they are, will be working from without and in direct opposition to God within. The result is a great conflict between the flesh and the Spirit of God.

**“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5: 17)**

There is nothing pleasant about it, just as there was nothing pleasant about Calvary and what our lord went through. The reward however, for those of us who choose to follow Him is beyond our fondest dreams. For man’s flesh, the price to follow Jesus is high indeed. We had better count the cost before we set our face to take up our flesh (cross) and follow Him (Luke 14: 26 – 33). Otherwise we will be doomed to failure.

What will it be for you – your religion, your flesh, your affections, or Jesus? Will you finish your race with a basket full of the same old fruit, the same old religion or will you give it all up to just sit at His feet (Luke 10: 38 – 42) until He transforms you into His very own Image? The choice is yours to make. I have made mine.

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**May God bless us all,**

**Your Brother, Tom**

**"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30: 5 & 6)**