

Wake-Up Call for the Soul



Stories for Soul Awakening

Bill Frase

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
The Nice Ride Operator	5
The Heartsick Cardiologist	6
The Blessed Curse	8
Planetary Cancer	10
Baby Don't Hurt Me	12
Who's Your Mommy?	14
Answered Prayers	17
The Sixth Sense	19
The Thirsty Travelers	21
Beyond Forgiveness	24
The Case Against Immortality	27
The Bad Teacher	31
The Story of Your Life	34
Citizen of the Year	35
Righting Wrongs	37
Energy for All	40
The Foolish Farmer	43
A Blueprint for Living	47
Children of Heaven	50
Curing Condemnation	53
The Fearless Enemy	55
Lost Girls	58
The Santa Claus Conjecture	65

The Healing Contagion	67
Beautiful But Broken	71
The Missionary's Position	74
Please, Please, Please Let me Love You!!!	76
The Wall	79
The Baptism of the Soul	81
The Resurrection of the Soul	83
A Vision of the Path	85
The Faithful Atheist	87
Your Love	89
The Reality of Divine Love	90
So Much Better Than Normal	91
Striking at the Root	95
Will You Open Your Heart to My Love?	98
Epilogue	100
About the Author	101

Introduction

This book is a compilation of posts from my blog, wakeupcallforthesoul.com from January 2018 to April of 2020. I started the blog after being inspired by Peter Rollins' [*The Orthodox Heretic: And Other Impossible Tales*](#). I thought I'd take a shot at writing some short stories of my own to support the awakening of the soul. My hope is that some of these stories may reveal hidden things, stir up what has been buried deeply under the sediments of the soul and possibly even inspire souls to seek the Creator's blessing of Divine Love.

Most of these stories are followed by a commentary called Secrets of the Story where I share a bit of my perspective on what each story means to me. I would love for readers to read each story and spend some time pondering the possible meanings for themselves before reading the Secrets of the Story commentary.

These stories are meant to contain a surplus of meaning allowing them to enjoy interpretations and express possibilities beyond what I may have consciously intended in writing them. I have often been pleasantly surprised by readers' perspectives on these stories that have been quite different from my own. My hope is that each story evokes something helpful or inspiring. If not, then please consider yourself a kind of prospector sifting through a lot of silt and sand before finding a few flakes of gold.

May you find that spiritual gold for your soul, that priceless gift of wealth that does not tarnish or fade, that bounty of infinite value and that can never be taken from you. It is your inheritance as a beloved child of the Creator. May you step forward to claim it from the depths of your soul. May you share it generously with your fellow heirs.

Bill Frase
May 2020

The Nice Ride Operator

There once was a ride operator at a local amusement park who would not enforce the park's line jumping policy. Instead of having line jumpers removed from the park, she would allow anyone who asked to move to the front of the line. When some of the people at the back of the line grumbled that what she was doing wasn't fair, she said, "What's complaining getting you? You see how this works. What's stopping you?"

Secrets of the Story

This story was inspired by my experiences of how God's Divine Love has worked in my own life. We do not have to wait for anything to happen to ask for God's Love. We don't have to wait our turn. We don't have to be ready. We don't need anyone's permission. Actually asking for God's Love in prayer is the most radically transformative thing we can do in our lives! We can ask for it in any moment at any place we may be in the "Line of Life." Whenever we receive God's Love, we are instantly transported to the "front of the line." God's Love isn't fair. God's Love is a power that is beyond anything that any human mind can conceive or appreciate.

It feels like cheating because we are raised to follow rules, norms, and social conventions before being true to ourselves. God's Love is beyond all human fabrications and expectations. It is THE Ultimate Power in the Cosmos capable of changing a natural being subject to death into a supernatural immortal being. It is the very essence of God. The Creator of the universe is THE source of Love.

There's so much more I could say about what this story represents for me, but I will leave you with one more secret. This story is designed to teach people what to do with their lives. The ride operator (God) is basically setting things up so that people will need to keep asking for permission to get to the front of the line (AKA: receive God's Love) over and over and over again in order to stay at the front of the line. In other words, if you want to stay at the front of the Line of LIFE, you need to ask your Divine Parent for Love constantly! Pray away!

The Heartsick Cardiologist

A girl was born to parents from families with extensive histories of heart disease. Both of her parents died young from heart-related illnesses. At an early age she decided to become a cardiologist and dedicated her life to ending heart disease forever.

As she was nearing the end of her residency, the young cardiologist was diagnosed with a rare and untreatable heart condition and received a poor prognosis. The prospect of dying before completing her self-appointed mission motivated her to pour all of her efforts into discovering a cure for all forms of heart disease.

Through determination and inspiration she discovered a type of stem cell not found in nature. She injected herself with the stem cells without notifying the institutional review board because her time was running out. Within days the cells were mysteriously targeting the areas of her heart that were most in need of repair. She repeated the treatments regularly given the encouraging early results. At her next medical exam her doctor was surprised to see that she had improved significantly.

She eventually received permission to do clinical trials of the new stem cell therapy with critically ill coronary care patients. The results were disappointing. Most patients experienced little or no improvement, but in a couple of cases the results were beyond remarkable. In a matter of months the stem cells replaced a significant percentage of the patients' original heart cells. Their hearts tested healthier and stronger at each follow-up visit.

Even though she had found only a few cases where the therapy had been effective, she continued to test the treatment. She believed that she had discovered something truly special, not only because of the obvious medical benefits but also because of the unusual psychological side effects - increased patience, kindness, compassion, purpose, peace, generosity, and joy.

After years of systematically eliminating potential factors related to the therapy's wildly inconsistent effectiveness, the now healthy and mature cardiologist discovered that the effectiveness of the treatment was perfectly and positively correlated with how desperately the patient wanted a new heart.

Secrets of the Story

This story is an outgrowth of my desire to create a contemporary metaphor for what happens to a human soul when one prays for God's Divine Love. The "stem cell not found in nature" is a symbol for God's Love, because it is not found in nature. It is a supernatural substance that comes to those who ask for it. This spiritual power literally flows into our souls in exact accordance to how frequently and fervently our souls long for it.

Another key to understanding this story is that it is describing an important spiritual principle at work in the way of spiritual transformation. That which is out of harmony with God's Love must be replaced, displaced, and/or transformed by it as it flows into the soul. God's Love is the greatest power in the cosmos, so anything less than it must give way to it. It is in this way that a damaged heart may be completely replaced by a new heart that is overflowing with God's Compassion. Through repeated and sincere prayer for God's Divine Love, hearts of stone become hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). Dying hearts become healthy hearts that inspire feats of love beyond the limits of human understanding. May it be so with each of us. Amen.

The Blessed Curse

Long ago there was a young man visiting Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. On his way to meet some relatives, he happened upon a crucifixion procession. He saw a man with his arms lashed to a wooden crossbar and a crown of thorns on his head. The young man was in a hurry, but was blocked by a throng of people glued to the gory spectacle. When the condemned man stumbled, the young man cursed him and told him to get moving. The bloodied man stopped, looked him in the eye, and said, "Wait for me." After what seemed like a long moment, he continued his journey to the cross. The sea of spectators parted, and the young man hurried on his way without looking back.

Years went by and the impatient young man had grown older. He had lived a decent and respectable life. His wife and children had died years ahead of him.

The old man grew tired of living in the same place without his family and friends, so he decided to leave his homeland for new surroundings. His travels did little to distract him from his aimless loneliness.

He had no home. He did not belong anywhere nor to anyone. Outwardly he appeared to be free, but his existence was an invisible prison he could not escape. Death refused to visit. His suffering grew to the point where he tried to take his own life. His suicide attempts were always foiled in the most unlikely ways - perfectly good ropes broke, poisons failed, last-second rescuers came out of nowhere. Even when he tried to provoke others to murderous rage, their faces would suddenly and inexplicably soften into looks of pity as they turned and walked away.

There was only one explanation - the crucified criminal's words had changed his fate even though that man had been killed by the Romans. He had also heard rumors of the man's impossible return from death. He had never taken those stories seriously, but anything seemed possible now. The old man searched for the one to whom he had been so cruel and unkind. He deeply regretted what he had done and wanted to see him again to apologize, but no matter how hard he looked he could not find him or anyone who had seen him.

He did find some people who followed the crucified man even though they had never met him. Together they started a tiny mission in the city where they lived to serve those who were in need.

In a moment of deep gratitude for the people he had come to love and who loved him, something like the warmth of the sun broke in upon his heart and flooded his entire being. The people took on a brilliance and beauty unlike anything he had seen in his many centuries. In the midst of his bliss came a gentle whisper, "I am here."

Secrets of the Story

This story is an outgrowth of my contemplation on the experience of the legendary figure of the Wandering Jew. James Padgett actually received a [message](#) through automatic writing from a spirit claiming to be the actual person behind the legend. My version of the story is also inspired by my love of the movie *Groundhog Day* where the screenwriter Danny Rubin imagined that Bill Murray's character (Phil Connors) could have lived the equivalent of 10,000 years before becoming enlightened and serving humanity instead of seeking selfish gain.

The story of the [Wandering Jew](#) fascinated me when I read it the first time so many years ago, and it continues to fascinate me. In it, I don't see a curse, but an incredible blessing where a man with a hardened heart is given all of the time he needs to discover the truth of God's Love in his earthly life before being released into the afterlife dimensions.

We each have our own unique journey. Each person's story is her own, and rock bottom is different for each of us. Sometimes people experience God's Love without hitting rock bottom, but there are those of us who will not seek God's Love until we've hit rock bottom, and we literally have nothing to lose. If we want to experience the power of God's Love, some of us are going to have to experience desperation before we will seek it. I hope that no one has to become desperate to experience God's Love, but it is the experience of some of us who are walking this particular way to spiritual transformation that a dark night of the soul is an important part of the path.

Note: I have never heard so many people make reference to the movie *Groundhog Day* than I have during the SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic.

Planetary Cancer

A galactic health team was conducting a survey of an uncharted star system when they encountered a small, beautiful planet orbiting a brilliant yellow star. Scans showed that the world was teeming with life, but it was also infected by a deadly cancer that was spreading unchecked over its surface.

Sensor data suggested that the planet's immune system was strong enough to overcome the disease without their intervention. The team decided to return in a standard space-time interval to check the planet's status. If its immune response had not overcome the threat by the time they returned, they would cure the cancer themselves. Twenty-first century humanity had no idea that time was running out.

Secrets of the Story

While I feel that this story is pretty self-explanatory, I do want to share a few thoughts about it. If it's not clear, I sincerely believe that if an advanced alien civilization happened upon the Earth today, they would see the human race as a disease that is killing the planet. They would see us as cells of the planet's body that have turned against it, just as cancer cells are healthy cells that have turned against their host. Humanity is not inherently bad or evil. Most humans today are simply good cells that have turned against Life at least to some extent, and in some cases to a great extent. But there is a cure for our soul sickness. We can be transformed from a greedy, selfish, parasitic, destructive force into the embodiment of Life itself. By asking for the Creator's Love in prayer, we can be changed from deadly cancer cells into healthy cells that actually promote Life in who we are and all we do.

I am sad to report that the story also indicates that humanity has already triggered the Earth's immune response. Humanity has heaped so much violence upon the Earth for so long that we are in the early stages of the Earth's healing process. This means that we are only seeing the faintest signs of what is to come as the Earth seeks to reestablish harmony. There is much more drama and destruction to come. There is much more suffering to bear. This isn't the kind of message I enjoy giving, but I'm giving it partially because these changes that are accelerating are meant to bring us back into harmony with God, each other and the Earth. The most powerful way for us to come into harmony with the Earth is through prayer for our Creator's Love. The more we pray, the more we come into greater

harmony with the Mother of our material beings. As we are changed by God's Love, we can start doing less harm and become the solution to the problems we have created.

I am now able to imagine an even more advanced and compassionate species of extraterrestrial who would recognize that it is not humanity that is the disease but rather the darkened and oppressive spiritual conditions that humankind has allowed to proliferate within and among us through the disharmonious exercise of free will. I believe that compassionate extraterrestrials would do everything they could (without violating our free will) to help us to awaken to the truth of the availability of God's Divine Love and the way to receive it. This is actually what the Creator and the angels of Divine Love are doing at this very moment!

I'm sure that people have many different ideas about how we got into our current circumstance with the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is spreading among people all over the world now. My current perspective is that this virus has arisen as a consequence of the Earth's response to the violence and darkness that humanity has inflicted upon themselves and upon God's creation. The Creator is using all of the opportunities presented within current circumstances as part of an all-encompassing plan to assist humanity with awakening from our deep sleep.

God is inviting us into a much greater reality where the power of God's Divine Love is deeply desired by more and more souls. This love has the power to transform the essence of the human soul into the essence of God's Divine Love. As more souls become transmuted from darkness into the light of God's Love, the world will undergo a great transformation into a place where love becomes the currency of life and spiritual light dispels darkness.

This book is called Wake-Up Call for the Soul because part of my soul's purpose is to support God's plan for the awakening of humanity to the truth of who God truly is and who we truly are as God's precious and beloved children. As the Earth and humanity continue to experience powerful waves of change in the days to come, I pray that we will seek God's Divine Love for the salvation of our souls and the healing of our precious planet. Amen.

Note: This story was originally published on wakeupcallforthe.com on February 10, 2018. It did not occur to me at the time that part of the Earth's immune response would involve the proliferation of a new pathogen. The irony is not lost on me.

Baby Don't Hurt Me

I knew a beautiful young woman who used to suffer from painful feelings of not being good enough. She could easily recall many instances of being rejected, betrayed and deeply wounded by many different people she trusted over the course of her entire life.

Despite all of this, she wanted to have a boyfriend more than anything in the world - someone who would accept her for who she was, faults and all. Eventually she met someone whose company she really enjoyed.

After a few dates her insecurities got the best of her, and she started calling and texting him all of the time. She was afraid that he was losing interest. She became jealous and possessive. She was absolutely certain that he was pursuing other women. When she confronted him about her suspicions, he allowed her to go through his call log, texts, e-mails, and social media accounts until she was satisfied. He assured her that he was only interested in her and shared that he was actually falling in love with her.

Despite his unexpected disclosure, she continued with her emotionally needy ways and questioned his fidelity and the depth of his feelings for her on a regular basis. One day when she was feeling even more insecure than normal, she grilled him about how he could love her given all of her hang-ups.

On his knees and with tears in his eyes, he confessed, "I am so in love with you. I am so happy being with you and I am giving my heart to you completely. I want you to be happy more than anything, and there is nothing that will ever make me stop loving you."

She broke up with him immediately and screamed, "If you really loved me, you wouldn't accept me as I am!!!"

Secrets of the Story

This story is a reflection on how traumatized we are as human beings. Living a human life at this time is quite traumatic for most people, even if they are not consciously aware of it. Most of us have been so wounded and hurt in our experience of life that we have these

huge defense systems that we have set up to protect ourselves from experiencing the same kinds of slings and arrows we have suffered before.

Another effect of trauma is that we often internalize our traumatic experiences in such a way that we interpret them as having a relationship to who we really are. In other words many trauma survivors interpret their experiences to mean that there is something inherently wrong with them instead of interpreting those experiences to mean that there is something really, really wrong with the sick pseudo-reality they are experiencing.

In this story the beautiful young woman cannot accept her boyfriend's love because she has bought into the false idea that she must change in order to be lovable. God's Love is truly unconditional. It comes regardless of any human concepts related to worthiness or goodness. It simply comes in response to a soul's heartfelt desire to receive it. That's it. The greatest miracle is that in receiving this love our defenses are dissolved, and we are empowered to give unconditional love freely to others as well.

PS: God is totally and completely in love with you, and wants you to be happy more than anything, and there is nothing you can ever do that will cause God to love you any less. God will not stop loving you, no matter what!

Who's Your Mommy?

There was a widow who had two sons. The younger one said to his mother, "Let's stop pretending like we're a happy family. Admit it. We're dead to each other. Why don't you just give me my inheritance now so we can be done with each other forever?" The mother was the founder and CEO of a successful business with a significant ownership position, so she gave each son half of her stake in the company. The board of directors called an emergency meeting to elect a new CEO after her rash decision, but the board narrowly decided to keep her on as CEO after her oldest son made a passionate plea to retain her.

Not long after that, the younger son took the company jet to a coastal haven for the rich and powerful where he wasted his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything and maxed out his credit cards, there was an economic depression that affected the entire country, and he began to be in need. His "friends" disappeared along with his money. So he went and got a job at the only place that would hire him - the sewer authority. The work was exhausting and disgusting, and it hardly paid enough to meet his basic needs. Despite the regular income, he became homeless because he couldn't afford to make his rent payments. He was perpetually hungry and seldom had a good night's sleep as he struggled to survive.

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my mother's entry-level employees have food and money spare, and here I am homeless and starving to death! I will go back to my mother and say: Mom, I was wrong to treat you as I did. I'm sorry for the way I talked to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; would you please take me back as an entry-level employee?" Eventually he was able to save enough money for a common carrier flight home and went to see his mother.

When he was a couple of blocks from the corporate headquarters, his mother saw him as she was exiting the building and was filled with compassion for him; she ran to her son with tears streaming down her face, threw her arms around him, and kissed him repeatedly.

The son said to her, "Mom, I was wrong to treat you as I did. I'm sorry for the way I talked to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; would you please take me back as an entry-level employee?"

But the mother hurried him into the lobby and said to her executive assistant, “Quick! Help my son get cleaned up and get him a new suit. Give him a new photo ID and security clearance. Call the caterer! We’re going to have a party!” She instructed all of her vice presidents at all of the corporate offices and operations centers to end business early and throw parties for their staff and customers sparing no expense. “My son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” So the employees began to celebrate all around the world. While he was happy to be received so warmly by his mother, the son was also very confused and felt extremely sheepish as everyone welcomed him back with genuine excitement, smiles and hugs.

Shortly after this, the older son returned to the office after closing the biggest deal of his career. As he made his way to his office, he heard music, smelled food and even saw some of the vice presidents dancing like maniacs in the glass-walled conference rooms. So he asked his mother's executive assistant what was going on. “Your brother has come back,” she replied, “and your mother has ended the work day and shut down global operations to throw a company-wide celebration because she has him back safe and sound!”

The older brother turned red with anger, refused to join the party and stormed out of the building. The executive assistant rushed to the celebrating CEO and told her what had happened. Before she could offer to help find him, the mother took off her heels and ran out of the building. She called after him, but he walked even faster in the other direction. Eventually she caught up with him leaving a trail of bloody footprints behind her. She pleaded with him to come back. But he answered his mother, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders! I begged the board to keep you on as CEO when they wanted to fire you! I just closed the biggest deal in the company's history, but you’ve never thrown me a party for anything I've done! But when this son of yours who has blown your hard-earned money on drugs, gambling and whores comes home, you celebrate like he’s a conquering hero!”

“Son,” the mother said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because your brother was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!”

The executive assistant who witnessed this entire series of events had been hired when she was a poor single mother without any qualifications. She had watched the boys' mother lavish love upon them all of their lives. She felt deep gratitude having known the warmth of her boss's love and kindness from the moment she offered her a job in her time

of desperation. Her heart broke for the two precious children who did not know their own mother at all.

Secrets of the Story

This story will be familiar to those who know the story commonly referred to as the "Lost" or "Prodigal Son" as told by Jesus in Luke 15: 11-23. I refer to that story as the parable of the lost sons. In this retelling, I wanted to portray the parent as a loving mother who gave birth to her children and nursed them as babies.

I also wanted to retell the story in a way that was more contemporary and urban for people today.

I also wanted to highlight the most surprising aspect of the story to me - that children could live their entire lives with their loving mother and still not know her at all.

The younger son didn't know how much his mother loved him when he asked for his inheritance. He still didn't know her love when he came back with a scripted plan to get back in his mother's good graces. He was actually surprised and embarrassed by the reception he received, indicating that he did not know his own mother's heart.

The older son did not know how much his mother loved him even though he thought he had been faithful to his mother his whole life. He was not happy about his brother's return and felt cheated that his loyalty had not been appropriately rewarded and that his brother's selfishness and infidelity had been completely ignored.

This story points to the truth that each of us is the precious child of our Divine Parent. Even though we have lived our lives in the light of our Heavenly Parent's Love, most of us are completely oblivious to it and ignorant of God's care which is greater than that which the most loving human mother can ever give to her beloved children.

Answered Prayers

There were two extremely religious parents who prayed every day for their son to be saved from his sins. As their son grew into adulthood, they told him how they prayed that he would come to know Jesus and his saving grace. The son was indifferent and sometimes even angry and resentful about their prayerful interference in his life. Eventually he disowned his parents. Despite the deep pain in their hearts, they continued to pray for their only son every single day.

One day when his parents were quite frail, the son came to them in tears. He thanked them for their prayers and apologized for his resistance over the years. As they talked about his faith journey, it became clear to the parents that their son did not share any of their religious beliefs. He didn't consider the Bible to be authoritative and had no interest in the creeds, rituals and sacraments of the church. They asked if their son confessed Jesus Christ as his personal lord and savior. He did not.

The parents were very upset and confused. The son said, "Mom and Dad, I love you so much, and I am so thankful for you and your prayers. I know that you cherish your beliefs, but I will not betray the One who has set me free."

Secrets of the Story

I come from a very religious extended family. I can recall many times in my younger years when my aunts in particular would tell me that they were praying for me. At those times I thought it was weird that they would tell me this whenever they saw me. I doubted that they actually did it, and even if they did do it, I wasn't sure I even wanted their prayers. I thought of them as nice people who loved me. I didn't consider them to have a firm grasp on reality.

Years ago, I realized that my relatives' hopes and prayers for me had been answered. I came to discover that there was a Creator who loved me unconditionally and was showering ridiculous amounts of Love and blessings upon me simply because I asked for them. The prayers I had never wanted became priceless blessings for which I felt incredible gratitude. Tears rolled down my cheeks as I realized that their prayers had been answered even though I did not ascribe to many of their beliefs regarding theology, the Bible, the church, Jesus, religious practice, ritual and creed.

Actually, my guess is that when my extended family learns what I really think about religious matters, they may be deeply troubled like the parents in the story. I know in my heart that their prayers helped guide me to God's Love which is beyond anything created or imagined by people.

God is most concerned with the orientation of each person's heart and soul. In other words religious beliefs, concepts, practices, cultural affiliations, political tendencies, lifestyles, etc. are only a concern to God to the extent that they either help or prevent people from accepting God's Love, loving others and loving themselves. People of all types and backgrounds have received and continue to receive God's Love and all of the benefits that flow from it. It's just that many people do not engage in spiritual disciplines that help them to experience the inflowing of God's Love into their souls on a regular basis and to such an extent that they are consciously aware of receiving it and of the good it is doing. Part of the purpose of this book is to help people awaken to their own souls' desire for God's Love. It is there, but many have not yet been able to perceive it.

I hope this doesn't come across as being too pushy or annoying, but my sincere prayer is that ***you, dear reader,*** will come to know this life-transforming power for yourself regardless of your personal, political, social, cultural or religious leanings. Thankfully you may receive God's Love simply by asking for it in all earnestness from your heart over and over and over again. Nothing else is required. God's Divine Love simply awaits the expression of your heart's true desire.

The Sixth Sense

There was a little girl who attended worship services with her mother every Sunday. She noticed how the congregation would pray with great intensity for people whenever they were sick. She joined in these prayers with great hope and faith. The little girl became troubled whenever one of the people she prayed for died and the prayers for that person would cease. She asked her mother why this happened. Her mother guessed that it might have something to do with the fact that the person was now in heaven and didn't need their prayers any more. Her mother changed the subject when her daughter asked, "But what if they're not in heaven?"

The little girl was still troubled by this situation and took the question to her Sunday school teacher. The teacher told her that those who passed away were in God's hands now and didn't need their prayers. The little girl asked her how it could be that people weren't in God's hands before death, and if they weren't in God's hands, whose hands were they in before they died? The teacher was glad when the little girl's mother came to pick her up from class.

The little girl was still deeply troubled and approached the pastor with her query. The pastor thought for a moment. "I don't know why we don't pray for those who have left this life. I feel we may be wrong about this. From now on we will continue to encourage people to pray for those who have died as long as they are inspired to do so. Why would people need our love and prayers any less in the next life?"

Secrets of the Story

I wrote this story because it has troubled me for quite some time that the congregation to which I belong does not tend to pray for people after they die. (Although I have heard rumors that the current pastor has been known to pray aloud for people who have passed.) In the church I belong to, we usually pray a lot for people up until the moment they die, then we shift our collective prayers for those who are left behind. When I have brought up this concern about the cessation of our prayers for those who have recently transitioned to the spirit world, I have heard the same reasons as the little girl in the story, and they have not put my concern to rest yet.

All people are in God's hands whether they know it or not, and yet I pray for myself and others frequently. I haven't yet met anyone who has been outside of the circle of God's Love and care even though I have met many people who are unaware of God's Love for them. On a daily basis, I still forget the great Love and care that God showers upon me (and everyone else) each and every moment.

I pray for myself and those on Earth and in the spirit realms because we can all benefit from love. It is love that connects each and every soul regardless of where a soul may be, who a soul may be or what a soul may be doing. Divine Love connects those who desire a connection to God's Great Soul as well. When you are inspired to pray for anyone (including yourself!) feel free to do so. If your prayers come from the depths of your soul, you can't go wrong.

I titled this story "The Sixth Sense" because the little girl in my story has a sense that people in the afterlife may benefit from our love in the form of our prayers just like Cole, the character played by Haley Joel Osment in the M. Night Shyamalan movie of the same name, discovers that there are people in the afterlife and in this life he can help with his gift. The most important "sixth sense" we have is our ability to feel and express love - receiving it in abundance from God and giving it away to others just as freely.

The Thirsty Travelers

Through a strange confluence of circumstances, three strangers found themselves in the middle of a vast desert without food or water. Each one dragged a suitcase with his most prized possessions through the hot sand. Dying of thirst, they happened upon what appeared to be a legendary bar and grill where the most insatiable thirst and hunger could be satisfied. One of them had never believed that such a place existed despite the many years of hearing children's stories about the mythical establishment. Another had heard about the tavern but had always doubted its existence since it just seemed too good to be true. The third traveler was thrilled, having never doubted the children's stories. The believer had actually set out on a life-long quest to find this very diner that most people considered to be nothing more than a silly fantasy.

The non-believers wanted to go inside the building, but the believer would not go in because the stories told of a bouncer who would take patrons for everything they had as a cover charge. The stories also told of the establishment's incredibly strict dress code, although no one knew what it actually was. The believer knew stories that told of a kind stranger who would come along in the nick of time to help faithful souls to get past the bouncer without paying the cover charge. This stranger also knew the secret to meeting the mysterious dress code.

Despite the believer's desperate warning, the other two travelers went into the building. They convinced each other that it had no connection to the ridiculous children's stories. Before their eyes could adjust to the dim lighting, they were confronted by a massive, greasy-haired bouncer who asked for all of their possessions without a smile or greeting. The two men paused in shock even though they had been warned by the third traveler. The bouncer grabbed each man by a shoulder and roughly dragged them to the exit. Before getting to the door, the travelers begged to be allowed inside. The bouncer let go of them and said that they would have to leave and stay outside unless they paid the cover charge immediately. As the traveler who was outside of the building had told them, the cover charge was everything they owned. Each of the travelers desired life more than anything else in that moment, so they each gave him all of their possessions. After taking everything, the bouncer allowed them to pass. A knowing smile snuck across his sweaty face.

The poor patrons entered the dining room and looked for a drinking fountain or restroom to get some water since they had no money for drinks. The drinking fountains and bathrooms

were all out of order. The irony of not being able to find any water in a proverbial "watering hole" was not lost on them. They actually wondered aloud to one another if they were going to die of thirst inside the air conditioned establishment. They looked everywhere for other patrons or a server who would help, but there were none to be found. They felt like the only two people in the world dumb enough to get themselves into such a ridiculous predicament.

Just at that moment, they saw a beautiful bartender emerge through a mirrored panel behind the bar. They found themselves at the bar like moths drawn to a flame.

The two travelers told the bartender their strange story. It was as if they had forgotten their thirst. She listened with great interest. When they were finished, she asked them what they wanted. They blinked and paused for a moment, taken aback by the question. They both asked for water. The lovely mixologist gave them tall glasses of the best-tasting and most refreshing water they had ever had. They thanked her profusely and apologized for not having any money for a tip. She smiled sweetly.

The bartender told them that they could go outside to invite their fellow traveler to join them inside the building. They asked her if there was any way to have the bouncer go easy on him. She told them that the bouncer would not allow the believer into the bar without taking all of his belongings. There was no way around it. They were also concerned that the bouncer would not allow them to reenter the bar if they left. She stamped their hands so that the bouncer would allow them back into the building.

The travelers walked past the bouncer who was looking through a window at the believer with a look of concern on his face. As soon as they opened the door, they were blinded by the bright light and almost knocked over by the blast of heat. It was hard to breathe in the hot, dry air. The believer turned away as soon as they came into view. The two travelers apologized to the believer for not listening to him. They begged him to join them inside to cool off and get some water to drink. The believer told them that they were insane. The dying traveler was adamant that the mysterious stranger of legend would come along at any moment to help him get past the bouncer just like the stories promised. The two men pleaded and made every possible argument to try to convince the dehydrated soul to come inside with them, but it was no use. The believer demanded that they leave him alone. The two travelers re-entered the bar and walked past the bouncer who looked as sad as they felt.

The two travelers shared their experience with the bartender. She led them to a large window and pulled back the heavy curtain to reveal the burning desert stretching all the

way to the horizon. Here eyes filled with tears. “What you see isn’t sand. It’s all that’s left of those who refuse to pay the bouncer.”

Secrets of the Story

One of the problems with beliefs is that we actually believe them. Belief in our beliefs can blind us to the truth of our circumstances. In the story the believer is dying but has convinced himself that he will be rescued before it's too late like some people cling to rescue fantasies hoping for some kind of dramatic intervention to save them from their problems. The help we need is right here right now, but we often don't recognize it because it doesn't match our expectations.

The non-believers (an atheist and an agnostic) were not better people than the believer. They were just able to appreciate their plight and accepted the help that was available regardless of how it was packaged.

We tend to base our identity on what others have told us and what we have told ourselves. The spiritual journey involves letting go of those things we have relied upon to shore up our sense of self - beliefs, possessions, relationships, habits, patterns of thought and feeling, survival strategies and defense mechanisms. We are able to receive what we need from The Source of Life and Love to the extent that we are willing to let go of the stories we tell ourselves.

The spiritual journey is about moving toward life. While unpleasant to contemplate, spiritual death is a real possibility because we are able to persistently refuse the help that is available. My hope is that we will each accept the ever-present help we need to really, really live and in the process release the burdens that were never truly ours to carry.

Beyond Forgiveness

There was once a man who did a terrible thing. He knew that he had done something very, very wrong, and he also knew that he could not undo the harm that he had caused. He believed in God, but he doubted that God would or could forgive him for such a heinous act.

The man came to a point where he was constantly tormented by the memory of his mistake. His heart hurt whenever it came to mind. No matter what he did, he could not stop thinking about what he had done. His physical and emotional pain became so unbearable that he cried out to God for forgiveness. He kept crying out to God until his suffering ended, and he knew that he had been forgiven.

With deep gratitude, he thanked God for forgiving him. Immediately, he heard a kind and gentle voice whisper into his heart, "My son, I love you way too much to do that."

Secrets of the Story

This story points to the difference between human forgiveness and God's forgiveness. Let's examine three typical meanings of forgiveness from Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition:

1. To give up resentment against or the desire to punish; stop being angry with; pardon

God doesn't get angry, resent anything or desire to punish anyone for anything. Anger, resentment, and the desire for punishment are all human creations. They do not form a part of God's character. The idea of pardon implies that God withholds something that man wants or needs. Nothing could be further from the truth.

2. To give up all claim to punish or exact penalty for (an offense); overlook

With regard to the second meaning of forgiveness, God didn't give up a claim to punish because God never made a claim to punish in the first place and had no interest in doing so.

Punishment and making claims to punishment were created by people to address problems created by people. God did not create punishment or claims to punishment and would never adopt these practices.

And God most certainly did not overlook the situation because God knew that the man had caused great harm to himself and to others. The universe is built upon a perfect harmony of laws. Whenever the workings of the universe are disrupted by the exercise of any will that is out of harmony with those laws, God is deeply concerned for the well-being of each and all. Our Heavenly Parent responds to pain and suffering with a deeply heartfelt desire to help. God is ever-ready and always eager to help.

3. To cancel or remit (a debt)

This third meaning of forgiveness includes the concept of debt and the possibility of paying it back or eliminating it altogether. Again we are dealing with things created by people to manage problems created by people. The idea of forgiveness as relating to the cancelling or paying of debts leads to questions such as: Who is indebted to whom? How much debt is there? What kind of debt is it? By what means can the debt be repaid or cancelled? The idea of debt elimination is not helpful in contemplating God's character and does not go far enough in describing how God brings harmony back to a creation unbalanced by the erroneous exercise of will.

These three typical definitions of forgiveness show that it is a human creation. The concept of forgiveness as defined in human affairs does not adequately reflect who God is and what God does. God's business is more beautiful and profound than anything that human beings can imagine. God is in the Unlimited and Unconditional Love business. God loves each and every precious child regardless of what God's children may or may not do.

The man in the story experienced a Divine Forgiveness which is nothing like the definitions of human forgiveness above. In the story the man allowed God's Love to flow into his soul through his desperate cries for God's help; and when he received enough of it, the pain and suffering associated with his errors were relieved. He thought of his experience in terms of human forgiveness - the only kind he knew up to that point. It is this kind of forgiveness that is denied at the end of the story. God loves us way too much to forgive as people do. But the response he received at the end of the story indicates that he experienced something very different from what the word forgiveness means because that word is based on people's experiences with themselves and other people. God's Divine Forgiveness is very,

very different from human forgiveness which depends on certain conditions being met. God's Divine Forgiveness is an unconditional function of Divine Love.

Many people believe that God has to go through a process before being willing to forgive anyone for anything since this is a very common human experience. This is not the case at all. It is the person in need of Divine Forgiveness who often needs to go through a process before she or he is willing to accept Divine Love which is the power that gives the recipient the experience of Divine Forgiveness that is freely available for the asking. If we experience any delay between our request for God's Divine Love and the Forgiveness it brings and our experience of these blessings, it is not a reflection on God's readiness or willingness to give, it is only a reflection of our readiness to receive.

The Case Against Immortality

There were two philosophy professors at a university in the fourth heaven with quite different perspectives: Professor Posit and Dr. Dudo. They both lived in the highest plane of the sixth heaven where souls that had achieved moral perfection lived, but they both enjoyed teaching at a popular university in the fourth heaven. They did this work as a labor of love because they were dedicated to helping the souls who had achieved that level of spiritual development to advance to the plane of perfection where they had lived for thousands of earth years. Despite their achievement of moral perfection, the two professors always found points of disagreement. Their ongoing divergence of perspectives was a running joke among the other faculty and students at the university. The two professors actually found it pretty amusing themselves.

All of the professors at this university took turns giving talks on current research topics. When Professor Posit's turn came, he made a case for the immortality of the soul. The students and the faculty applauded his lecture because it provided a solid foundation for understanding the nature of Ultimate Reality and the meaning and purpose of life. Tears streamed down the Professor's bright blue eyes and around the corners of his broad smile.

What had given others a sense of peace and comfort gave Dr. Dudo a vague sense of unease. He felt that something important had been missed by his colleague, and he became obsessed with finding it.

When the time came for him to deliver his lecture, Dr. Dudo made his case *against* the immortality of the soul. He systematically dismantled every single one of Professor Posit's arguments in favor of immortality using logical proofs. During his concluding remarks Dr. Dudo somberly stated through his thick mustache, "Everything that has a beginning has an end. Only that which is without beginning is immortal. Everything else is subject to death."

The audience asked no questions after Dr. Dudo's talk which was quite unusual. They just shuffled silently out of the room in a gloomy mood. Dr. Dudo had discovered a great and important truth, but he felt empty inside. He wanted to take everything back but knew that he must promote the truth despite the unpleasantness of his findings.

The only person to approach Dr. Dudo after the lecture was Professor Posit. He had a broad smile and tears in his eyes. *Why is he always crying?* Dudo wondered to himself.

With both hands, the Professor shook the confused man's hand excessively. "Thank you so much my dear, dear friend for revealing the errors in my thinking!"

Dr. Dudo was taken aback, "I'm sorry. I don't understand. We now know for certain that we are not immortal by nature."

"You're right! We're not!" gushed Professor Posit. "Before I had only *hoped* that we were immortal by nature. You showed me that hope is not enough. I assumed that we must be immortal because the alternative was too terrifying to contemplate. You have shown me that my hope was a lie. I realize that I must seek The One Without Beginning. With all my heart, I want to know and experience eternal life as an undeniable fact of my existence more than anything!"

Struggling to follow his colleague's line of thinking, Dudo replied, "But there is no guarantee that you will find what you seek."

Professor Posit hugged his discombobulated colleague tightly with a look of pure joy on his face. "No, there isn't. But that's no reason not to try!"

Secrets of the Story

Many people believe that the human soul is immortal by nature. I have heard people use the phrase "immortal soul" many times in my life. Until someone can provide certain proof or knowledge that any human soul has always existed, the belief in the immortal nature of the soul is only expressing a hope, not a truth. The fact of the existence of the soul after the death of the physical body only proves that spiritual life continues beyond life on Earth. This is not proof of the eternal life of the soul.

The two professors in the story have lived many earth years in the highest plane of the sixth heaven where perfect souls reside, and yet they do not know for certain whether they are immortal or not. While this may be hard for people on Earth to believe, there are many souls in exactly this condition - hoping or assuming that they are immortal without certain knowledge of the fact of their eternal existence. If this is really the case, how can there be any hope of achieving true immortality - the impossibility of spiritual death? The hope is found in the fact that the good of the highest plane of the sixth heaven can allow souls to ignore the Best that is available. There is no reason for those of us on earth who do not yet

know perfect happiness to be satisfied with the good of perfection when the best that is beyond perfection is readily available for the asking.

While this story may appear to suggest that the question of the immortality of the soul is just an academic exercise, it is not. It is a matter of great importance because until one has achieved certain knowledge of immortality, the possibility of nonexistence lurks in the recesses of awareness. This existential uncertainty is associated with personal and social problems that arise out of dysfunctional responses to the perception of mortality as a condition of being. Part of the reason we have the challenges we have is because this existential anxiety goads us into doing things that are out of harmony with Life since we unconsciously fear death.

As children of The Source of Life, we are supposed to feel completely safe, but because we have cut ourselves off from the essential nature of The Source, we suffer from fears and anxieties associated with the possibility of non-being.

Some existentialist and stoic philosophers have proposed courage in the face of existential uncertainty. While this is a noble response worthy of admiration, it does not address the root cause of the dis-ease of mortality. This story points toward the hope of a real cure for spiritual mortality and not just a symptom management strategy like hope or denial.

Like Professor Posit, the realization that I could cease to exist was one of the factors that motivated me to seek immortality from "The One Without Beginning" My seeking has been rewarded with the progressive realization that I am acquiring the Essential Nature of The Source of Life which will ultimately lead to the certain knowledge of my immortality. I haven't reached that stage of awareness yet, but I have found that when I ask in prayer for the essential nature of The Source of Life (AKA: Divine Love) I receive it.

Persistence in seeking this spiritual essence is required. It's not a once and done kind of thing. So even if you don't have the sense that you have received it yet, persist in your prayers for it and you will eventually have all of the evidence you need to know that you are receiving something that is changing your ultimate destination from moral perfection to a place of wonder and beauty of which even perfect souls cannot conceive.

So while I do not yet have absolute knowledge of my immortality, the responses to my prayers for God's Essence of Divine Love give me no reason to believe that the responses

to my prayers will not continue to lead me to my goal of complete union with God and the certain knowledge of eternal and abundant life with my Heavenly Parent.

I pray that you will not be satisfied with hope and denial. I hope that you will seek union with the Ultimate Source in Love. If you seek you will not only find immortality, but the very purpose of your life. Amen.

The Bad Teacher

There once was a high school teacher who was known for her testing policy. During tests and quizzes students were allowed to ask her for as much help as they needed. Those students who asked the teacher for help always got top grades, even if they were not known to be good students.

After one particularly challenging pop quiz, a straight-A student who had consistently refused to ask the teacher for help confronted her about her policy. The earnest student believed that asking for help was cheating and that despite studying very hard he was only getting Cs and Ds while all of the students who asked for help had top scores. "I'm so glad we are having this conversation!" the teacher exclaimed. "I have been keeping a close eye on you, but I can't figure out how you are doing it. You should be completely failing my class, but you're not. Either you are really smart, really lucky or a really good cheater. Regardless of how you are pulling it off, whenever you are ready, please ask me for help. That's why I'm here."

Secrets of the Story

Our Divine Parent does not conform to the arbitrary rules and structures that we have developed to manage ourselves, our relationships, our organizations and our institutions. God is doing God's Thing and will not stop doing it just because people disagree with it or don't like it.

Our Heavenly Parent really wants to help us, but won't unless we ask for that help from our souls. The straight-A student wouldn't ask the teacher for help because he judged (wrongly) that it was cheating. When I consider how I have been blessed by the Power of God's Love over the course of my life, I have often thought of myself as "cheating" because my mind still struggles with the idea of happiness being related to achievement that is earned and deserved. In my actual experience, God has rewarded me based on the desire of my soul which has nothing to do with earning or deserving anything. It is all about God's gifting of Unconditional Love to me.

Humanity has created a world that is almost completely out of harmony with God's World, I call this temporary reality the "pseudo-reality." Ironically, it constitutes most of what people are referring to when they talk about the "real world." The rules of the pseudo-reality are mostly about achieving goals related to appearance, achievement and affluence (*Days of Awe and Wonder*, Marcus Borg, p. 200). I have been richly blessed in more ways than I can count, and all I did to receive these blessings was to ask for God's Love in prayer. That's it. I don't deserve the good things I have received in my life. I haven't earned them. I'm just a guy who got really desperate and when I asked God for help in prayer, I received it and have been receiving it ever since.

While people may be rewarded for intelligence, expertise, physical prowess, attractiveness, wealth, power, influence, shrewdness, talent or violent tendencies in the pseudo-reality, The Source of Life rewards people based on the requests of their souls in prayer (Matthew 6:6). No one who prays in this way can brag about rewards and accomplishments because all he has done is ask and receive. It takes no special skill or talent. It's so simple. Anyone can do it! (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

The straight-A student wanted to define fairness based on beliefs he accepted as true from his society. God's fairness is very different from human fairness. God's fairness is based in the fact that every single soul has the exact same ability to ask for and to receive the gift of God's Love at any time, in any place and under any circumstance. The teacher in the story offered every student help. That's fair. The one who was used to winning the educational game on his terms was now losing because he thought the game was about achievement through personal effort. His pride in (and identification with) his previous intellectual achievements blinded him to the truth that we all need God's help if we are to experience true success. This is part of the dynamic at work in the teaching that "the last will be first and the first will be last" (Matthew 20:16). Success in the pseudo-reality does not equal success in God's World. Many people who consider themselves to be winners in the pseudo-reality have already found (or will soon find) that their worldly successes count for very little in God's World of Unconditional Love.

The pseudo-reality is all about games with rules that create and sustain winners and losers in their respective roles. Everyone can win in God's World - there's plenty of real success to go around - but for that to happen, people need to play God's Game which is receiving God's Unconditional Love and expressing unconditional love toward others. The pseudo-reality is all about conditional love: love that is given and received based on people's ideas of what is deserved either through inheritance or achievement. While it is

possible to experience some degree of success in the pseudo-reality and God's World in this life, there are way too many people who seek success in the pseudo-world at the expense of achieving success in God's World. Indeed, what good is it to gain the false world and give up your soul? (Mark 8:36) God's Love saves - no form of success in the made-up world ever can or ever will.

Another way to look at the straight-A student is that he wanted to play the game his way and thought that the teacher should see things his way. God doesn't play like people do. God Loves Unconditionally. God is not going to change the game to conform to people's expectations, to make people feel better or to feed their egos. God knows exactly what each and every single soul truly needs better each and every soul does. The sooner each one of us really, really gets that, the sooner everything gets better.

Life is so much more than what can be found in the pseudo-world. God's World is a really big place that goes so far beyond anything that humans are capable of imagining. There are so many amazing levels and layers of reality for people to experience, but they cannot be accessed through one's mind or body. These are places that only the soul can go, realities that only the soul can experience, perceptions that only the soul can have.

May you be inspired to seek those amazing places in God's World with all of your heart. If you seek and persist (Luke 18:1), you will find, and when you find, you (like me) will be utterly amazed at what has been hiding in plain sight all along (Gospel of Thomas: Sayings 2, 5, and 113).

I look forward to seeing you soon in God's World!

The Story of Your Life

You awake to a new day, but due to events beyond your control, you have forgotten the story of your life. Everything that brought you to the present moment is lost to you. You do not know or recognize the people in your world, where you live or how you lived your life before today. You don't know what belongs to you. You have forgotten your habits and routines. Even those closest to you are complete strangers. With this change, you have lost your identity, making you a stranger to yourself. How will you approach your new life?

Secrets of the Story

I am fascinated with the nature of identity. Who am I really? Who am I beyond the stories I tell myself and the stories that others have told me. Who am I beyond my habits of being and doing, feeling and perceiving? Who am I beyond the limitations of memory?

I have discovered that there is a core self, a soul that is my true self. It has been created in the invisible image of my Creator's Great Soul.

No one and nothing in the pseudo-reality can tell us who we truly are. If we want to know our true identity, we must look to the Source of our being. It is in experiencing that which flows abundantly from the Source that we come to know our true selves.

I wrote this story to help readers contemplate existence without all of the structures, habits, relationships and stories that we typically use to define our lives. This contemplation has the potential to bring us closer to the realization of our true nature as souls, created in the invisible image of our Parental Source - souls capable of receiving the essence of our Source so that we might know for certain from whence we come, who we are called to be and what we are called to do.

Citizen of the Year

It was the annual school awards celebration and the parents, teachers and students were assembled in the school auditorium on a warm and humid evening in late May.

Awards were given to many different students for various academic achievements, but the final and most prestigious of the evening was Citizen of the Year Award. It was awarded to two students who embodied the highest values of the school and community the most consistently over the course of the school year.

Of course the students who received the citizenship award that night were happy and excited to win. A local newspaper reporter covering the event overheard the comments made by the award winners' parents. One student's proud parents talked about how they worked diligently over the years to instill the right values and priorities in their son with consistent and firm discipline, religious education through their faith community, moral education through charitable activity and consistent modeling of positive behavior.

Just after this, the reporter overheard the single mother of the young lady who won. She talked about how she was pleasantly surprised and very proud of her daughter. Another parent asked her how she had raised such a wonderful and responsible child. "I have just done my best not to undo the goodness I saw in her when she was born."

Secrets of the Story

I knew before my son was born that he wasn't mine. I knew that his soul came from the same Heavenly Parent who gave me life. I knew that his soul had been created in the image of God's Soul. And I knew that I could do nothing to contribute to the perfection of his creation. My job was to do my best to love and care for this precious soul who had been entrusted to my love and care for a very brief period of time.

I've known parents who believed that there was something fundamentally wrong with their children or something missing from their children that needed to be added or fixed. I have seen this perspective cause some parents to seek to make their children whole or complete. I have never seen my role as a parent in that way, hence the story above.

Each soul is created perfectly in the image of the Creator's Divine Soul. Our first challenge upon entering this world is that every soul is influenced by the soul condition of the parents. The condition of the parents' souls forms the spiritual matrix through which the child's soul must pass into this world. Most (if not all) parents' souls carry encumbrances that have disharmonious influences upon the perfect souls of their unborn children. Those influences can be substantial. It is important for us to understand from whence our children's spiritual burdens arise. They come from us, and not through any inherent lack or defect on the part of our children's original spiritual nature.

These perceptions have caused me to develop my own theory of parenting which involves doing my best not to do further harm to my child's soul any more than I already have. I am doing my best not to further screw up the perfect and complete child with whom My Divine Parent has blessed me. To put it another way, I have seen my role as doing my best to shower unconditional love upon my son as my Heavenly Parent has been showering unconditional love upon me from the moment of the incarnation of my soul into this world. Of course I have failed as a parent in this regard many times over the years.

I haven't done as good a job as I would have liked, but despite my errors I have been blessed to witness the flowering of my son's being over the years. My errors have been mitigated and at times completely undone to a great extent by the love of his mother, relatives, friends, teachers, angels, the Creator, and others who have loved him along the way. Along with all of those with whom we have been blessed to travel, I have also had to depend greatly upon my Divine Parent's help in loving and caring for my son. Ultimately I know that my son is who he is because of who God is and what God gives and does out of infinite Divine Love.

There is only One Parent who can give each of our children what is needed to fulfill the unique destiny that is encoded into their souls. That parent is the Heavenly Parent of us all who continuously showers Unconditional Love upon each and every precious child. May we each strive to be the models of unconditional love that will guide our children and our soul siblings to accept the Unconditional Love that flows from the gracious heart of our Divine Parent. Amen.

Righting Wrongs

There once was a man who had done wrong to many people over the course of his life. He was eventually haunted by his memories of wrongdoing and became convinced that he needed to do his best to make restitution to everyone he had harmed.

He spent months tracking down and approaching the people he had wronged. Some were grateful for his restitution, but most did not even know he had wronged them or were in denial. A couple of people told him that without his mistreatment, they would not be as happy or successful as they had become. They were actually grateful that he had wronged them and would have been greatly disappointed had he not! Some people became very angry with him and told him to leave. Most didn't want anything from him except to be left alone.

In his attempts to make things right with the people he wronged, he found that some of the people had died before he could make things right, so he tried to make things right with their family members. Most of the relatives of those he had wronged were confused and didn't want anything to do with him. Some actually threatened to call the police.

The man was disappointed and lamented about the treatment he had received at the hands of his victims and their descendants. He was confused and disappointed because he was trying to do right by people and received a lot of grief for his sincere efforts to help.

In a quiet moment after his complaint, he heard a voice say, "My child, you not only found a way to create bad situations, but you actually found a way to make them worse. Open your heart to Love and act upon the inspiration you receive. Allow that same Love to give you and everyone you wronged exactly what is needed."

Secrets of the Story

As I have gone through my own process of learning about the harm I have caused myself and others over the course of my life, I have wanted to make things right. If I had to do what the man in the story tried to do, I believe it would be pretty unpleasant for me and for everyone else involved.

Most of the times I have apologized to people for what I have perceived to be errors, they have been genuinely confused. What to me was an egregious error, was nothing as far as they were concerned.

Part of the irony of the story is that the man thinks he needs to do these things for the people he has harmed, whereas he is actually doing it for himself. I have found it helpful to apologize as soon as possible when I feel I have wronged another. Most people tell me that as far as they were concerned I had done nothing wrong and/or that there was nothing to forgive. Others have done their best to ignore my efforts to acknowledge my errors.

As I have engaged in this practice over the years, I have realized that I am doing this for myself. That doesn't necessarily make it wrong. It's just important for me to understand why I am doing what I am doing so I can be honest with myself about it.

Another irony of the man in the story is that he believes he has somehow taken or damaged something that belonged to someone else but then desires to receive appreciation for his efforts to make things right. But since he is unwittingly taking these actions for his own sake, he is actually seeking to take more from those he has wronged in order to prop up his image of himself as the kind of person who takes responsibility for his wrongdoing and makes things right

The man has also deceived himself in another way. He believes that he can undo or significantly mitigate the consequences of his errors. Most of us have knowingly and unknowingly caused harm with our thoughts, feelings and actions over the course of our lives. We are mostly unaware of our impact upon others and the world - both for good and for ill. Hidden threads connecting who we have been and what we have done are woven throughout the vast fabric of the cosmos. Trying to pull or cut any of those threads will likely do more harm than good.

Many of us will eventually desire to undo the harm we have caused. The solution to this dilemma is given in the final paragraph of the story. There is a power that can give each and every soul exactly what is needed to solve every problem and dilemma regardless of its origin. It is available to everyone - those who have done wrong and those who have been wronged. Most of us fall into both of these groups. It is the only power with the ability to completely dissolve the connections that bind humanity in a complex web of pain and suffering. It is also the only power that can weave a new tapestry of true wholeness and

goodness. Each soul that receives and lives according to this power becomes a place where light replaces shadow and peace and harmony supplant pain.

In the Power of Divine Love, we come to know that every situation and circumstance is actually an opportunity to experience more of this supreme power for the transformation of our individual lives and the lives of all with whom we share this beautiful universe. There are not a multitude of answers to the multitude of problems we have created. There is one answer for them all, and it is available to each and all for the sake of all - right here...right now.

Energy for All

There was an engineering school dropout who was tired of losing power every time a car hit a telephone pole or lightning hit the electrical substation near his home. For some inexplicable reason, these kinds of events happened frequently. His electricity bills kept increasing despite receiving poor and intermittent service. He was tired of tossing out spoiled food from his refrigerator, resetting his clocks and paying more and more for unreliable power derived from fossil and nuclear fuels. He thought there had to be a better way to generate and deliver electrical power safely.

He studied everything he could about alternative forms of energy. He followed every lead no matter how far-fetched it seemed. He studied wind and solar power, but he wasn't satisfied with these technologies for a number of reasons: vulnerability to environmental factors and human actors, inability to be effectively scaled in both directions, poor energy density, inconsistent output and negative aesthetics. He wanted a compact technology that could power an entire community, a family home and even be made small enough to reliably power his cell phone without needing a rechargeable battery. He also wanted to achieve these kinds of results without destroying the environment.

During his research, he had learned that many people had tried to realize similar dreams before him who had failed. He was determined to learn from their mistakes and succeed. After years of trial and error, he developed several small prototype generators that had the ability to transform energies from the highest frequencies of the invisible part of the electromagnetic spectrum into usable electricity. According to his own testing, he found that the technology worked at all times, in all places and under all conditions. No matter how much energy he generated, there was always more where that came from. The supply was inexhaustible.

He invited trusted family members and friends to help him build an enterprise to produce and deliver the technology to the world. Eventually he received all of the necessary patents, secured investors and acquired a facility to manufacture and distribute his invention to realize his dream of freeing people from harmful systems of power generation and distribution.

A few months after production had started, a coronal mass ejection from the sun hit the Earth. It destroyed all of the earth's satellites, including the entire constellation of global

positioning satellites. It plowed through the magnetosphere and overloaded the global electrical grid, causing massive and persistent power failures and the destruction of critical components of the system. Everything dependent upon the grid (including cellular networks and the Internet) failed. The most developed countries and cities were thrown into chaos. In the aftermath of the global devastation, the new technology became one of the factors that allowed humanity to rebuild a new civilization of balance and harmony.

Secrets of the Story

This story was based on my current understanding of natural and divine law. Twenty years ago I became convinced that it was possible to generate electrical power from the high frequency electromagnetic fluctuations that pervade space-time. I assumed that the technological applications of this knowledge would be widespread by now so that we could work toward healing the Earth from the ravages of a global economy based upon acquiring energy through combustion and nuclear fission (along with their harmful side effects) to one where energy was acquired in ways that were more in harmony with natural law.

Obviously, I was spectacularly wrong and still am. Part of the reason I wrote this story was to encourage people to consider the possibility that everything we truly need can be acquired in ways that are harmonious and not destructive.

This story suggests that it is not only possible to generate electricity without combusive and nuclear processes but that energy captured this way is unlimited in its availability. The universe is the material manifestation of Divine Abundance and Providence and is not the vast blackness of indifference to life that so many suppose.

This story intimates that living in harmony with natural law is similar to living in harmony with divine law. Just as we need to learn how to "ask" the universe for power through creating "antennae" to receive invisible electromagnetic fluctuations for power generation, so do our souls need to learn how to "ask" the Creator of the universe to experience the benefits of the Divine Power that is invisibly omnipresent, yet freely available to all.

The word that I most commonly apply to the soul's desire to receive Divine Power is prayer. Truly heartfelt prayer is the spiritual "technology" that allows the soul to receive invisible Divine Energy so that it may not only be empowered but in the process be transformed from a natural being into divine entity. In other words a human soul cannot only receive

Divine Power but can progressively become a more powerful instrument of the Divine Source in the world.

There is nothing in all of creation that can come between a sincerely seeking soul and the Power of Divine Love that flows from the heart of the Creator. There is nothing in all of existence that can stop this miracle from happening except the refusal of the soul to receive this power in the first place. Once the soul seeks in the way of deep desire, it must receive, because Divine Power flows according to law (just as electricity flows according to law) and not according to any arbitrariness or capriciousness that has been attributed to the Creator. It will be some time before our material technologies operate in much greater harmony with natural law given our species' current level of spiritual development. But each soul can seek to live in harmony with Divine Law right here and right now through heartfelt prayer for the Power that changes the very nature and essence of the soul from corruptibility and mortality that are the legacy of our created natures to the incorruptibility and immortality that we may inherit if we so choose. As we do, our ability to understand how to live in greater harmony with natural law will reveal wonders beyond imagination.

The Foolish Farmer

A farmer went out to sow his seed like he did every year. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Every planting season, the farmer did this with the hope that the path would soften, the rocks would erode and the thorns would retreat so that the seed could fulfill its purpose in those places as well.

Secrets of the Story

Those who are familiar with the New Testament will recognize this story as being similar to the teachings attributed to Jesus in Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 13: 1-23, and Luke 8:4-15. Those who are familiar with the Biblical versions of this story will also notice that I have added an interpretation that is different from the one that is common to all three of the gospel versions of this story.

When I read this story, I see the character of the farmer as God, and I see the different kinds of soil representing different soul conditions that people may have.

While the Biblical interpretations suggest that the story is primarily about the character of people, I will start my interpretation of this story as it relates to the character of God.

I did some of my growing up on a farm, and I had the opportunity to watch my father cast seed in the fields. I saw how he did not cast the seed on the hard dry paths of habit that the cattle had trampled where nothing grew. I watched him avoid casting seed among the thorns that grew in large clumps with all kinds of tall grass growing between the sharp shoots. I also remember that he did not bother casting his seed into the piles of rocks that the people who owned the farm before us had made to free up more ground for pasture and cultivation.

I call this story the "Foolish Farmer" because no earthly farmer in his right mind would sow seeds in places where there is no hope of reaping a harvest. Since casting seeds in these kinds of places would be a waste of time and resources for an earthly farmer, why would God cast seed in hopeless places? This also begs the question, what is God's "seed" anyway?

In the Bible we are told that the seed is the "Word of God" that people hear. While this is a useful interpretation, it also makes sense to me to interpret the seed as the actual essence of God, Divine Love. I like to interpret the seed as the very power of Abundant Life itself - the Life that can be lived right here and now beyond life as most of us currently know it.

If I interpret the seed of story in this way it leads me to the possibility that God actually chooses to shower the free and abundant gift of Divine Love upon every soul. Unlike the wise earthly farmer, God "foolishly" does not withhold Love just because any given soul at any given moment is not receptive to it. Why would God do this? I believe it is because God knows better than any of us what is possible. God knows that at any moment any soul could become open and receptive to the seed of God's Love. The rocky places of a heart that has been hardened as a defense against a hostile world could crack and the seed of God's Love could take root. The hard, dry, and trampled paths of habit could be softened by changing weather and precipitation patterns and by the flow of feelings that have been pent up behind dams of fear, vanity and shame. The thorns that guard our fragile, temporary self images from harm can wither when they are no longer fed and watered by our resistance and all of the negativity that flows from that toxic wellspring.

While I believe this story says a lot about God's character, I also see it as a story of hope for the potential of the Creator's children (Us!) to change, to be changed and to become the change that our Creator calls us to be in this world and in this life. It is also a call to those who seek to embody God's Love in the world to remember that those with the hardest hearts, the most rigid patterns of habit and the prickliest personalities are in need of God's Love too. We can grow in our appreciation of the times when human hearts are like the humble soil that is prepared to receive the seed of God's Love. Soulful humility allows Love to take root within our souls and helps us to live lives of greater fruitfulness and contribution. It can be so for each of us if we choose this path. We all have the same potential to receive God's Love, no matter what the current condition of our souls may be. We have been created to receive it through the practice of prayer.

I believe that most of us who live on the earth have the potential to embody all of these different kinds of soul conditions. I see in my own soul all four of these types of conditions every single day, but God keeps showering seeds of Divine Love upon my soul, knowing that I am only going to allow a few of them to take root and grow into a bountiful harvest. When I consider God's great generosity I feel like there are mountains of Divine Love "seeds" surrounding me that have not yet germinated for a lack of fertile soul soil.

This story also causes me to contemplate the nature of the seed of God's Love. I like to think that God's Love is like a seed that "waits" until just the right moment to break through all of the defenses I have created to protect my fragile self-image. I don't think this is literally true, but it's an image that gives me comfort at this point in my journey.

Whenever I see weeds growing through cracks in the pavement, I think of the power of God's Love and Life. Pavement is meant to be an impenetrable barrier to prevent life from taking root. With just a little bit of time, water, and temperature change, an impenetrable surface can change just enough to allow a weed seed to take root in a tiny crack. Another thing about weeds is that they can actually widen those cracks and accelerate the inevitable destruction of what appeared to be an impenetrable structure. Contemplating images like this makes me think that my limiting self-image doesn't stand a chance against the persistence of God's Love in the long run.

I feel that God's Love may be something like a weed seed - able to wait for the moment when the soul is receptive to its germination. Our souls know what they need (God's Love), but our minds have been trained, conditioned and socialized to misinterpret that single desire into a myriad of limiting patterns of habit, distraction and addiction. The seed of God's Love can take root when we come to recognize the true need of our soul for Life despite our dysfunctional efforts to protect and prop-up our flimsy and fragile self-images. On the other side of the self-images we simultaneously resist and identify with is a realm of limitless possibilities represented by the untapped potential of the seed (the unimaginable power of God's Love).

We have been socialized into a false world that does not appreciate the incredible generosity that God shows toward us. Most of us are much more familiar with the management of resources to maximize gains and minimize losses in our workaday world. **God plays a different game of reckless generosity and surprising persistence.** Innumerable seeds of love are showered upon our rock-hard hearts which may come to perceive the true desires of our souls for union with our Heavenly Parent.

Our Loving Creator knows that we can change, and that the germination of **a single seed cast with generous abandon can be the first step in turning a wasteland of death and darkness into a paradise of Life and Light.** May it be so for the sake of our priceless souls and our precious world! Amen.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

A Blueprint for Living

Jesus continued to engage the crowd that had gathered to hear his teachings. "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who dug down deep and laid the foundation, building his house on solid bedrock. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because its foundation was unmovable. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand, without a solid foundation. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it collapsed with a great crash and its destruction was complete."

After the crowd had dispersed, the disciples entered into a hushed conversation. Eventually one of them sheepishly expressed what was on all of their minds, "Rabbi, most of us have been following you for almost two years now, and you speak of the importance of putting your teachings into practice, but we still don't know how to do that."

After talking long into the night it was clear that the disciples actually knew how to put Jesus' teachings into practice. There were just two things that were holding them back from doing so despite everything they had learned and witnessed:

1. They couldn't see how repeated heartfelt prayer to the Father was going to accomplish anything of significance.
2. They just couldn't believe that it was that simple.

Secrets of the Story

The beginning of this story is an adapted combination of the two versions of the parable of the wise and foolish builders from Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49 (NIV) along with an imagined conversation afterward.

The only way the story of the two builders makes any sense is if Jesus actually believed he had provided a workable blueprint for living that anyone could follow. A plan to build one's life upon is not a smattering of helpful hints or tips. It's not about catchy phrases,

mathematical formulas or nice stories. I hear Jesus saying, "Practice repeatedly what I have taught, and you will really, really live - even when you are facing your greatest trials." For me, the story of the two builders begs the question:

"What Is Jesus' Blueprint for Living?"

Throughout the four gospels in the New Testament it is clear that Jesus taught people how to develop a relationship with the Creator through prayer. **But what if prayer is *the main thing that Jesus taught?*** What if Jesus' way of prayer gives us everything we need to truly live - even when disaster is pounding on the door?

Here's an attempt to encapsulate my current understanding of Jesus' Blueprint for Living: **We are to repeatedly allow the deepest longings of our souls to reach out to our Heavenly Parent and to do our best to live in harmony with what we receive in response.**

If this statement is anywhere in the ballpark of Jesus' actual blueprint for living, I can see how people could be challenged to accept it for a variety of reasons. Like the disciples in the story, there could be huge doubts that such an approach could generate any significant results. Also, this blueprint could appear to be way too simple. I can imagine people saying, "Prayer?! There has to be way more to it than that!"

Regardless of what blueprints we are using now or may use in the future, Jesus has given us a way to test any blueprint for living. We can ask ourselves how we are responding to the challenges we are facing in any given moment. Do we feel peaceful, joyful, loved, guided and protected; or are we feeling restless, upset, fearful, lost and unsafe? If we are experiencing any of the latter feelings, we can either:

1. Make sure that we are fully-implementing the blueprint we have to decide if the problem is our lack of follow-through or the blueprint itself, or
2. Find an altogether different blueprint, fully-implement it and test its effectiveness in the crucible of our lives.

Challenges are guaranteed. How well we face them depends upon the source of our strength. Regardless of what the details of Jesus' actual blueprint for living may be, this story confronts us with the question:

Does our strength come from God or not?

[New International Version \(NIV\)](#) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](#) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Children of Heaven

Jesus was in Kpar Nahum and continued to speak with people in the crowd that was assembling about him in the shade of the trees. “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet our Heavenly Father feeds them. Are we not much more valuable than they? Can any one of us by worrying add a single hour to our lives? Since none of us can do this little thing that is so easy for our Heavenly Father, what good does it do to worry about anything?” The growing crowd listened intently with some looks of skepticism sprinkled throughout.

“Let’s take clothing for example. See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe every single one of us? When it comes to food, it’s even simpler: plants and animals live and grow, and we can take them into our bodies to live. When it comes to water, we may collect rain water or drink from a stream or lake. So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ Let those who run away from Heaven worry about these questions. Seek first your Father’s Heavenly Reign, and all these things will be given as well.

“Our Father desires to bless us with purses that will not wear out and that are filled to overflowing with heavenly treasure that will never fail. When you receive your new purse filled with incorruptible treasure, no thief will be able to touch it. Your wealth will not tarnish nor diminish. What you receive from Heaven is yours to keep. The tax collectors can’t touch it. No moth will be able to chew through the fabric of your purse, for your Father will make it indestructible. Your soul is the purse made to hold this priceless treasure.”

A man from the crowd said to Jesus, “How do we seek this Heavenly Reign when we’re being crushed? How can we get our hands on this treasure that never fails? What good’s an empty purse that lasts forever? The Kingdom of Caesar has taken what little treasure we had.” Some members of the crowd murmured among themselves.

Jesus looked at the man with a twinkle in his eye, “The rulers of this world take what they want by force. But those who seek to do the Father’s will must ask for these blessings

through humble, heartfelt prayer. And what you receive in response cannot be taken from you because no one can put their hands on it. It cannot be seen with the eyes. It can only be felt within the heart."

"But what if The Father doesn't want to bless me?" muttered someone in the crowd. Jesus' eyes took on a softer, almost saddened look. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are not as compassionate as your Heavenly Father, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven pour His Love into the hearts of those who ask in prayer?"

"So I say to you with all of the authority that the Father has given to me: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Each and every one who asks from the heart will receive. The one who desperately seeks the Father's Love will find it. The door of the Father's compassionate heart is always unlatched. The Father's heart will open wide at your lightest touch. The more important question is, how open is your heart to receive what the Father desires to give to you?"

"Your Heavenly Father will not deny you the deepest desire of your heart. He loves you more than you know. And what does the heart desire above all? It desires the Father's Love. You may think that it desires clothing or food. These are important and the Father desires to bless you with these things as well, but the greatest blessing that the Father waits with eager anticipation to bless each and every one of you with is His Love."

"The Creator of our souls is our Heavenly Parent. We are each heirs of the Father's Heavenly Kingdom. Unlike earthly heirs, we do not have to wait for our Heavenly Parent to die to receive our inheritance. No! The Father is eternal and abundant Life, and gives his Love freely to those who ask in prayer. Your Heavenly Parent has more than enough Love for every single precious and beloved child who asks. Each and every one of us are joint-heirs of a Heavenly Kingdom of Love without borders or limits."

Secrets of the Story

This story is a patchwork of adapted scriptures from the New International Version of the Holy Bible (Matthew 6:25-24, Luke 12:22-24, and Luke 11:9-13) with some imagined conversation woven in.

I have written this story to share my current understanding of Jesus' teaching regarding God's Unconditional Love for us and our ability to receive that Love through heartfelt prayer. We are precious and beloved children of our Heavenly Parent. And our Heavenly Parent longs to fill our souls with Love so that we might receive everything we need to live well.

There is a toxic and pernicious lie that has sickened the mind and weakened the heart of humanity for millennia. It is the lie that we cannot trust our Heavenly Parent to meet all of our needs. We fight among ourselves for worthless scraps and settle for so little, because we are unaware that our Heavenly Parent is the Creator and Ruler of the Cosmos, making us royal heirs who were born to inherit vast spiritual riches that will help us to receive the material blessings that we need as well.

Just as those of royal birth can fail to exercise their royal claims, so do most of us fail to exercise our claim to our Heavenly Parent's Royal Riches. **We are Children of Heaven.** Heaven was never meant to be a place that is only experienced after we die. The world we have been gifted will only join the heavenly realms when we decide to embody the Love of our Heavenly Parent. And there is only one way for us to receive God's Love so that we may embody it in this world - the way of soulful prayer.

We cannot pray for God's Love too much. We are so in need of God's Unconditional Love. Our world is so in need of souls who freely give of themselves according to the Unconditional Love that they have received. Let us open our hearts in prayer to God's unlimited riches of Divine Love right here, right now and forever more. The One who made our precious souls is more than ready to fill us with Heavenly Treasure whenever we are ready to receive it.

[New International Version \(NIV\)](#) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](#) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Curing Condemnation

It was a hot summer day in Magdala, and Jesus and some of his disciples were relaxing in the shade of a large sycamore. Suddenly a loud group of townspeople approached and threw a disheveled woman in front of Jesus. She was shaking and her face was stained with tears. The leader of the mob explained, "Rabbi, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The Law of Moses commands us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" Jesus was drawing in the dust with his finger and acted as if he didn't hear the question. He appeared to be completely in his own world. Different members of the crowd demanded an answer of Jesus. Some of the disciples were concerned that something worse than the stoning of an adulterous woman might actually happen if Jesus didn't do something to satisfy the angry crowd.

Jesus continued to draw in the dust with his finger for what felt like an eternity in the charged atmosphere. "The one among you without sin may cast the first stone." At first no one said or did anything in response to his instruction. Some glances were exchanged, and a few of the people turned and walked away in silence. Others followed.

Eventually it was just Jesus, the disciples and the woman under the tree. Jesus stood up and asked the woman who was still on the ground, "Where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you." Jesus extended his hand to help her up. "Go now, and leave your life of sin."

This event made a strong impression on the disciples, and afterward they asked Jesus a flurry of questions.

"When we condemn we put our own souls at risk," Jesus interjected. "The Father does not condemn. He has only compassion for his children no matter who they are or what they have done. Just as the Father loves without condition, so should we. If we condemn, we condemn our own souls. If you show compassion as your Heavenly Father shows compassion, then you take another step toward becoming like your Heavenly Father in love."

“The only way to show compassion as your Father shows compassion is to receive the Father’s Compassion into your own heart through prayer. When your heart overflows with Divine Compassion you will give it freely to each one you meet, just as the Father gives the gift of his Compassion to each child who desires it.”

Secrets of the Story

This story is a retelling of the story in John 8:1-11 (NIV). It also includes some details as described in a message from [Judas of Kerioth](#) along with my own adaptation of Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 7: 1-5 and Luke 6: 38-42.

We have been taught to pass judgment and condemn ourselves and others according to a wide variety of criteria. This activity is not just useless, it is harmful to our souls. When we pass judgment and condemn, we are not connected to God’s Love.

The cure for condemnation is God’s Unconditional Compassion. We have been trained by well-meaning people to play the soul-killing games of judgment and condemnation. And because of the dysfunctional buzz we get from them, most of us are actually addicted without even knowing it. Judging and condemning deaden our souls. These actions keep us from experiencing the warmth and vitality that flows from the reception of God’s Love into our hearts. If we’re condemning, we’re not loving. When we are allowing ourselves to be loved and to give love, we cannot condemn. They are mutually exclusive. One is a way of death. The other is a way of life.

Let us do our best to stop passing judgment and condemning anyone or anything (including ourselves!). Let us seek instead to be filled to overflowing with God’s Divine Compassion so that our own tendencies to judge and condemn may be cured forever. In this way we can bring healing and harmony to this hurting world!

[New International Version](#) (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](#) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Fearless Enemy

There was a humble woodcarver who was returning home after selling his wares in Jerusalem during the Feast of Weeks. He left early in the morning with his cart and donkey taking the path from Jerusalem down to Jericho. The winding way was eighteen dangerous miles with many sharp curves and cliffs. It was called the "Bloody Pass" by the Jews not only because of the abundant red rock that defined so much of the way, but because it was well-known as a place where bandits frequently ambushed vulnerable travelers. The merchant had only traveled a few miles when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes and beat him leaving him bloodied and half dead. The bandits disappeared into the desert with his cart and his donkey. In his soul, the man cried out to the Lord for help. His last prayer before he lost consciousness was that he not die alone.

A short time later a priest happened to be going down the same road. When he saw the man he was afraid of what would happen if he stopped. He looked around. Seeing no one, he rushed past the man and kept up a quickened pace until he was out of sight around the next turn. He convinced himself that there was nothing he could have done under the circumstances.

The sun moved higher in the sky and the day grew hotter. Eventually a Levite came to the same place and saw the man. He too was afraid of what could happen to him if he stopped to help. Seeing no one around, the Levite quickly passed by the bloody man and hurried until he was out of sight as well. Afterward he convinced himself that the man on the road must have been cursed by God for some terrible sin he had committed.

Later on a Samaritan came to where the man lay. (Samaritans and Jews were bitter enemies.) When he saw the bloodied man, he had compassion on him. He bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He gave him water to drink. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he paid the innkeeper enough to provide food, care and lodging for the man for several weeks. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." The Jewish innkeeper could not imagine how any more payment could be required and wondered how his enemy could be so kind and generous to not only the wounded man but to him as well.

While he was recovering at the inn, the woodcarver thanked and praised the Lord for saving his life. He decided to discover for himself the same power that made his unlikely savior both fearless and merciful.

Secrets of the Story

This is an adapted version of the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). There are many important things that can be learned from this story in its original form, but I want to focus on one particular question that this story has raised for me: **What is the difference between the first two men who encountered the half-dead man and the third - the enemy of them all?**

All three men encountered the same situation but responded in two different ways. This telling of the story suggests (as did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his ["I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech](#)) that it was the first two men's fear that prevented them from helping. If this is a valid interpretation of their behavior, what caused the Samaritan to help despite the very same danger that put the woodcarver in his predicament and prevented the priest and the Levite from helping when they had the opportunity?

The Samaritan was not ignorant of the dangers he faced. The road to Jericho was well known as a very dangerous passage. Unlike the first two men, **the Samaritan appeared to respond without concern for the danger he faced.**

What if the Samaritan helped (in part) because he knew in his heart that he was being cared for and protected by God? Is it possible that it was not only his compassion that motivated him to save the man, but his trust that God was caring for him as well and would protect him from the dangers on the road? Perhaps he had developed his relationship with God to such an extent that he knew he had nothing to fear. Instead of simply acting out of ignorance or some kind of reckless compassion (not that there's anything wrong with that), **what if the Samaritan acted out of a trust and fearlessness that is challenging to imagine but not beyond our ability to experience?**

Most of us have been socialized and conditioned to believe that the world is a dangerous place and that we must be vigilant against numerous threats. The world we have created together is a very dangerous place. **But what if this horror-show world is only dangerous to those who do not receive the kind of guidance and protection that**

comes to those with hearts overflowing with God's Love? What if we can only trust God to the extent that we have allowed God to Love us? What if most of us simply don't know God's Love well enough to perceive the help and protection that are readily available?

We have created and accepted as real an unreal reality - a pseudo-world that has little in common with the reality of Abundant Living that God longs for us to experience. God wants us to truly thrive. What if we can trust God more than we have been led to believe? **What if we can be truly fearless and compassionate in God's Love?**

We have accepted lies as truths and dismissed the highest truths because they seem too good to be true. Our hearts and minds have been hardened by cynicism and misinterpretations regarding the causes of our pain and suffering. This is why so many are not able to perceive the Love and Care that our Heavenly Parent showers upon us each and every moment of our lives.

Jesus taught and lived a life of absolute trust in God - a trust born of soul perceptions that went way beyond anything that the body or mind could perceive or believe. Jesus' perceptions flowed from a level of participation in God's Nature of Divine Love that allowed him to trust God completely and show great compassion to others. With this story Jesus points toward the possibility that **we too may experience a soulful union with our Creator that can transform our fears and doubts into an unshakable trust, compassion and fearlessness that flows from the Power of God's Love glowing within our souls.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. provided some of the inspiration for this post with regard to the motivations of the priest and the Levite. Amy-Jill Levine's Short Stories by Jesus (pp.77-115) helped me to better understand the enmity between Jews and Samaritans. I would also like to thank [Judas Iscariot and H.](#) for providing insight as well.

Lost Girls

For reader's theatre

Cast of Characters

MOTHER: A woman in her late 50s

ELDER DAUGHTER: The mother's daughter in her 30s

YOUNGER DAUGHTER: The mother's daughter in her 20s

ELDER DAUGHTER

My sister has never really appreciated all of the things that our mother has done for us over the years. Mom has always given us everything we need, but today my sister went too far.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

OK. I just got sick of it - my mom telling me she loves me and that she has all of these hopes for me. She keeps acting like we're a happy family when we're not. Whatever! It was just too much. I told my mom that it was time for us to part ways forever. Since I was never coming back again, I told her I'd like my inheritance now since I won't be around to collect it when she's dead. I mean, she's got more money than she'll ever be able to spend. That's only fair, right?

ELDER DAUGHTER

That spoiled brat!

MOTHER

I considered what she asked of me, and even though it broke my heart, I decided it was best to give my child what she wanted. She said she felt like a prisoner even though that was never what I wanted for her.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

Wow! I knew my mom could be reasonable, but that went way better than I thought!

ELDER DAUGHTER

Mom has always spoiled her, but this was beyond belief! So my ungrateful and selfish sister gathered her belongings and her newly inherited riches and set off to live it up in a distant playground for the rich and famous.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

My dreams of being free from my past and my hypocritical family were finally coming true! Goodbye!

ELDER DAUGHTER

And good riddance!

MOTHER

I knew my oldest was glad to see her sister leave. They played together and loved each other when they were children, but had not gotten along for many years. It broke my heart to see how they had grown apart. My eldest thought I was wrong to give her sister the inheritance. Even though my youngest had made her intentions clear, I hoped with all my heart that she would come back to us. I prayed for her every day, just as I had when she was with me.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

I was finally free! I bought whatever I wanted, lived where I wanted, ate what I wanted. I smoked, drank and took whatever drugs I wanted. I could afford whatever entertainment I wanted. I slept with whoever I wanted. I was sooo happy! Life was so good. I was free and having so much fun!

ELDER DAUGHTER

I remember hearing years later that my sister's country had experienced a major economic recession.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

The money ran out, and my "friends" disappeared. No one would help me. I became homeless and the only job I could get was working as a prostitute for money or for drugs I could sell.

ELDER DAUGHTER

She had never been any good with money or taking care of herself. If she didn't find someone to take care of her when the money ran out, I knew she was going to have a really hard time. It would serve her right.

MOTHER

I heard about the recession in my daughter's country. I continued to pray for her.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

It got to the point where I hated everyone and myself most of all. I was living out of my car. I had to take showers at a shelter. The money I was making wasn't enough to pay for my food, let alone anything else I needed.

ELDER DAUGHTER

Every day I saw my mom staring toward the horizon. I knew she was thinking about my sister. Even after several years, I was still fuming over how my sister had treated her. I couldn't bring myself to talk to my mother about my sister for fear that I would lose my temper.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

Things were sooo bad for sooo long. Finally, I realized that my mother had staff who were living way better than me. Maybe she would take me back? So I scrimped and saved so I could make the trip home. I came up with a nice speech about coming back as a staff member that would hopefully get her to take me back. I was desperate and would take whatever she would give me. It had to be better than this!

MOTHER

I was watching the sun go down one evening still hoping that my daughter would come home.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

I realized that I could make it home before nightfall if I hurried. I had run out of money and hitchhiking had only gotten me to the interstate. As I picked up my pace, I practiced what I would say to my mother so the words would come out right.

ELDER DAUGHTER

On the evening my sister arrived home, I was in town closing a business deal. That is what I did, what I was supposed to do.

MOTHER

It was twilight. I saw my youngest coming toward the house. I started running toward her and tripped because of my shoes. I kicked them off so I could run faster to reach her.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

I saw someone running toward me. When she got close enough, I realized it was my mother. She looked like she had lost her mind. Her gray hair was out of control. She was in her bare feet, and she was hiking up her skirt. She was scraped up and dirty. Then I saw a smile and tears on her face.

MOTHER

I hugged her so tightly. The tears of joy wouldn't stop. I stroked her hair and laughed for joy. My Child! My Child was home!

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

I tried to recite the speech I had rehearsed for her to take me back, but my mom told me that she had been hoping that I would come back even before I had left all those years ago.

MOTHER

I called one of my assistants and asked her to make preparations for a party to celebrate my daughter's safe return. New clothes were on her bed waiting for her after her bath.

ELDER DAUGHTER

When I came home, all of the lights were on, there was loud music playing and people were eating, laughing and dancing. I asked one of the staff what was going on, and she told me the whole story. I had never been so angry in all my life. After everything, my mother welcomed my sister with open arms and threw her a party!

Then I thought about how I had been faithful to my mother both before and after my sister left. My anger shifted from my poor excuse for a sister to my sucker of a mother. She threw my selfish sister a party and had done nothing for me. My mother made my sister the spoiled brat she had become. She indulged her and gave her whatever she wanted every single time! She had made her into a selfish and self-centered bitch and was rewarding her for being that way again!

MOTHER

One of my staff came to let me know that my eldest daughter had returned, but had become upset and wouldn't join the party. I searched the grounds and found her. She was by herself. She turned on me and vented wrath unlike anything I had ever seen. I tried to express my love for her, but she wouldn't hear me.

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

I was feeling pretty uncomfortable at the party. It made no sense to me how my mother acted as if I had never treated her badly. I didn't feel comfortable in my own skin. When my mother left the party, I followed her. I needed to get out of there anyways. It was all too much to handle.

My mother approached my sister, and I watched as she verbally attacked our mother. Her face was contorted with ugliness and spit flew out of her mouth. I could see the love in my mother's eyes for my sister. Until that moment I had no idea who my mother really was or how much she loved me and my sister. The words coming out of my sister's mouth were very much like my own past thoughts of my mother. I saw my own dark heart reflected in my sister's rage as she heaped insults and obscenities upon our mother. I was beginning to understand how wrong I had been. Tears streamed down my face. I felt a painful ache in my heart that I'd never felt before.

ELDER DAUGHTER

After I'd given my mother a piece of my mind, I had to get away from her. I never wanted to see her again!

YOUNGER DAUGHTER

When my sister ran away, I went after her. I screamed her name as she disappeared around a corner. I told her I was sorry. I told her I was wrong. I begged her to come back. I don't know if she heard me. I searched for her all night and for several days after that. I prayed with all my heart that she would come home to us. I was beginning to feel my mother's love for me which gave me comfort, but my sister was missing, and it broke my heart not to have her in my life.

Secrets of the Story

This is a script that I developed to explore the motivations of the characters in the story of the Lost Sons told by Jesus in Luke's Gospel (15:11-32). I changed the gender of the characters because an earlier version of this script was written for a women's spiritual retreat led by my partner. I also enjoy changing the male characters in Jesus' parables

(which are understandable given his own historical context) into female characters whenever it can make sense to do so. I also wrote this script to play with some of the possibilities within Jesus' original short story.

In this retelling, we see somewhat how the daughters are at war within themselves, with each other and with their mother even if they are unaware of their inner conflicts. The ending is partially inspired by Amy-Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus*, pp. 29- 76. In her book, Dr. Levine proposes the idea that the story of the Lost Children has something to do with the recognition of who is missing.

In this version, the older sister does not feel anything is missing when her sister is gone because of her jealousy and rage. The mother's love for the younger daughter creates an invitation for her younger child to reconsider how she might have been wrong. Because she has begun to accept her mother's love, the younger sister recognizes that her life is now incomplete without her older sister.

We are siblings of our Divine Parent. Through our way of being and living in this world we can become open invitations to the people we encounter, just as the mother's unconditional love invites the younger daughter to change. We can invite people to accept the Gift of God's Holy Love only by doing our best to live it ourselves.

We are each needed. We need each other. We are each desperately wanted by God. God knows each and every precious child through and through, and knows how lost each of us actually is. God desires for us to allow ourselves to be found in Unconditional Divine Love and Absolute Divine Acceptance.

May we each be found by Love Divine. My precious and beloved sibling, please join me in the celebration of our Heavenly Parent's Love for each of us. May we share our love with each other and with all of our siblings now and forevermore. Amen.

The Santa Claus Conjecture

When I was in fourth grade, I was utterly alone in my continued belief in the myth of Santa Claus. I was persistently ridiculed for my faithfulness. In my efforts to understand why my classmates' parents had to buy them Christmas gifts every year and mine didn't, I developed my own theory of Santa Claus that helped to resolve the cognitive dissonance that troubled my young mind.

I reasoned that my classmates and their parents lacked the faith necessary to allow Santa to freely and abundantly meet their Christmas wishes. I on the other hand had parents who were faithful to Saint Nick (as was I) and therefore we all experienced the abundant Christmas miracle every single year of my brief blessed life up to that point.

Despite having worked out a plausible theory for the disparity between my experiences and those of my classmates, the ridicule of my unrelenting classmates caused me to ask a fateful mid-December question of my dear mother. In a moment my faith was shattered by her honest response. My faithless classmates were vindicated, and my magical world came crashing down around me. In short order I lost the winter miracle of Santa, the hope and wonder that came with the Easter Bunny in spring and the Tooth Fairy's wonderful compensation for my occasional dental disappearances. I cried and I cried for what I had lost. After recovering from my loss, I committed myself to helping my parents to be Santa, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy for my younger siblings from that day forward.

Secrets of the Story

As I have replayed my memories of that fourth grade December, my appreciation for the desperate theory I developed has grown. Several decades later, I have once again become a little child who knows the magic of God's Love. Instead of waiting for an annual Christmas miracle, I now get to experience the daily miracle of the inflowing of God's Divine Essence of Unconditional Love into my soul in response to my prayers and prayerful way of being.

Instead of hoping for occasional visits by mythical beings, I now get to spend my time in the glorious presence of God and in the beautiful company of so many love-filled souls and the many gifts and blessings they bring. I know many people who do not know the precious gift of God's Love. My heart longs that all of my soul siblings may experience this freely offered

Christmas gift for themselves. Christmas is not about believing in certain stories or characters. It is about the powerful experience and effects of God's Holy Love on our lives and our world. I pray that we may all awaken more and more to the reality of God's Love for the salvation of our souls, our families, our communities and God's World. Amen.

The Healing Contagion

There was a civilization where everyone carried a deadly and disabling pathogen that they had unwittingly inherited and passed from generation to generation over the course of millennia. The pathogen insidiously prevented people from absorbing important nutrients from the environment that would have allowed them to live long, healthy and happy lives. The unrecognized pathogen had made the people chronically sick, extremely negative and anti-social. Violence in a multitude of forms was endemic. Most people didn't live past their mid-thirties.

Since no one could remember a time before they had become infected, everyone assumed that a short and bitter life was their natural inheritance. All of their religions justified their suffering as proof of their inherent unworthiness and depravity.

Their medical textbooks even considered the pathogen to be a naturally occurring blood factor, even though its purpose was not yet understood. It never occurred to anyone that their entire way of living and dying was built upon a common infection.

There was a young man who had always felt there was something deeply wrong with the world. He didn't know what to do about it, but he had this faint hope that somehow something could be done to make things better.

One day he came upon a homeless man in the city. The tall, thin man was older than anyone he had seen before. He had never seen someone with such white hair and so many wrinkles. The young man gave the old man some money and asked him his age. The bearded man said that he was seventy-nine years old. The youngster didn't believe that because he knew such a thing was impossible. But he knew that the deeply wrinkled man had to be older than his forties.

During their conversation, the old man recalled a day many decades before when he had been in so much suffering that he cried out in desperation from the depths of his being for relief. Ever since that moment the quality of his life started to improve on a gradual but continuous basis. He was happier and healthier in the present than when he had been in his teens, which was considered to be the prime of life. He became homeless because employers wouldn't hire him, assuming that he had a contagious disease.

After the two men parted, the youth could not stop thinking about the encounter. It was as if an ember of hope buried deep within had been rekindled. He started to feel a deep longing that whatever had changed the old man's life could happen for him. He was desperate to be free from the depressing darkness that he carried as a heavy burden. He felt something shift within himself. He didn't know what had happened, but he felt something he'd never felt before which increased his hope that change was possible.

The young man gradually started to feel better physically and emotionally. Being a very curious person, he couldn't just accept what had happened. He needed to understand so that he could help others.

He eventually found a physician who was fascinated by his story. The doctor actually thought the youngster was suffering from an unknown form of mental illness that she could take credit for discovering in order to advance her career. After running an exhaustive battery of tests, the doctor realized that her original diagnosis had been incorrect. Having eliminated the most likely explanation for his claims, she became determined to find the cause of her patient's condition.

The doctor discovered that the young man had become infected by a virus that had reprogrammed his cells so that they worked in a completely new way. She also learned that there was an inverse relationship between the presence of the virus and the ubiquitous blood factor that was actually the unrecognized pathogen that made everyone sick. As the blood count of the virus increased, the unrecognized pathogen's numbers decreased.

When the doctor tested her own blood, the virus was present, but she didn't have any of the young man's symptoms. She also had normal levels of the unrecognized pathogen assumed to be a beneficial blood factor. It appeared that the virus could be easily transmitted and survive in the bloodstream but required some kind of trigger to infect cells.

The doctor hypothesized that the young man had contracted the virus from the homeless person and had activated it through an unknown mechanism that affected the receptor sites of his cell membranes, allowing it to attach and replicate. As she witnessed the young man's continued improvement, she longed to experience the benefits that came from the activity of the virus, and her health and mood started to improve as well.

Eventually the doctor found some desperate chronically ill patients who were willing to allow themselves to be infected with the virus. Just like the young man and the doctor, the

test subjects experienced an increase in energy and well-being and their attitudes and patterns of thought, feeling and behavior started to change for the better as well.

Word of the results of the experiments spread to the authorities who were afraid that the virus would lead to a global pandemic that would threaten the very principles and institutions upon which the survival of their dismal civilization depended. So all of the infected were quarantined at a remote government facility to protect their civilization from the disruption that would ensue from mass contagion.

Despite their incarceration and constant medical testing, the infected did all in their power to liberate their captors. The scientists and bureaucrats of the pharmaceutical companies and public health agencies worked assiduously to develop a vaccine to protect their world from salvation.

Secrets of the Story

For millennia those who have had The Answer to our collective disease of disconnection from our Divine Source have been killed, imprisoned, misunderstood and misrepresented by those who have been threatened by the healing contagion of Divine Love that they sought to bring to the people of the Earth. Those with the knowledge to save us from ourselves have been labeled as the problem when they have actually been the incubators and carriers of The Solution to everything that ails us.

Civilizations have invested vast amounts of time, energy and resources in compounding the problems we have created when The Answer has been at hand for millennia. The Cure to all of our problems is freely available, but unless we allow it into our hearts and souls, it remains unused and unknown, as if it had never existed.

The Answer of God's Divine Love for many is just like a beneficial virus that cannot attach to the cell (soul) membranes that would allow it to enter, replicate and reprogram our inner beings with unconditional love and unshakable peace. If we don't want to be infected by God's Love, if we won't invite it in, we can't catch the blessed infection. We will continue in our shared sickness of estrangement from The Source of Life. We will not be able to absorb the Power of Life that surrounds us like an unknown and invisible nutrient in our world.

Fear, ignorance, greed and violence appear to be winning, but they will not prevail in the end. The time is coming when the virus of God's Essence of Divine Love will heal us and our world. It will not be stopped. It is a fire of contagion that cannot be put out. It will not be quarantined or contained. It is a holy fever that even the coldest of hearts and the hardest and sharpest of minds cannot and will not prevail against.

That which is out of harmony with Love cannot last. True and Lasting Power comes directly from the Divine Source. The images and symbols of power, comfort, abundance, ease and happiness that so many people seek are only passing shadows without substance. The Source of All Goodness has an Infinite Heart of Unconditional and Evergiving Love that will never give up on us. Ever.

Become a carrier of this Holy Infection by praying for God's Divine Love! Once our way of being is powered by Divine Love, we become invitations of unconditional love to help others seek infection for themselves from the Divine Source. For those of you who choose to accept this Blessed Infection, let us not keep this Healing Contagion to ourselves!

CDLC WARNING: *Symptoms of infection by the Creator's Divine Love: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, hopefulness, rejoicing in the truth, trusting, perseverance and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13 NIV) Also, those who are in the advanced stages of infection will constantly seek Divine Love through passionate and heartfelt prayer to The Divine Source for more.*

Note: There is now an additional irony to this story that was originally published in December of 2018. It didn't occur to me that God would be able to use the global pandemic that has arisen out of humanity's resistance to life and love in such a powerful way as we are seeing today. I am in absolute awe and wonder of God's activity in the world during this time of profound change.

Beautiful But Broken

There was a beautiful little girl whose parents had always held her at an emotional distance. No matter how hard she tried to find a way to endear herself to them, she ended up feeling frustrated, disappointed and sad. Her parents always pulled back just when she thought she was getting close. She grew up believing that there must be something deeply wrong with her.

In her teens, she wanted to do new things and explore different possibilities, but her parents became extremely controlling and shut her down at nearly every turn. She couldn't understand what she had done to cause them to distrust her so much.

The teenager became a beautiful young woman who slouched slightly and rarely made eye contact with people. Her smile had an inexplicable way of highlighting the sadness in her eyes. She second-guessed herself even when it came to the most insignificant of decisions. She felt unworthy of anything good. She constantly battled within herself - trying to prove her worth while unconsciously sabotaging every opportunity.

The young woman had a deep desire to live a life of service, meaning and purpose. Whenever she allowed herself to indulge in any kind of hope for this kind of life, a harsh and unkind voice would enter her mind asking her who she thought she was, telling her that she would never amount to anything. Her entire existence felt like a long, losing battle.

Just before Christmas, she was fired from her job, found out that her lover had cheated on her again and was diagnosed with a chronic pain disorder for which there was no cure and no effective treatment.

It was a gray and rainy Christmas Eve. The beautiful but broken young woman decided to kill herself to end her suffering. She had never really taken the idea of God seriously, but decided to give God (if He even existed) a piece of her mind before entering oblivion. Sitting on the edge of her bed with sleeping pills and alcohol on the nightstand, she said:

“You can't be real. If you were, my life would not have turned out like this. I'm unwanted. I have tried to do the right things, but nothing ever works out for me no matter what I do. I wish I'd never been born. I feel like a mistake, a really sad joke. I'm sick in my body. I'm dead inside. Everything I've ever done has been for nothing. All I can think about is how

meaningless it all is. I'm poor and alone. I've done my best, and it hasn't even been close to good enough. I just want this pain to end."

Suddenly the drab apartment was filled with a soft, golden light, and she felt a wave of warmth pass through her. As if from inside herself, she heard:

"Beloved, I have been with you all of your life. Even though you have not been able to feel my presence or hear my voice until now, I have never left your side. I have been with you through every single insult you have endured. I have been with you through every trial, every injury, every single thing that you have considered to be a problem or a mistake."

"You are not a mistake," declared the voice. The young woman started to cry, her tears absorbed by her faded jeans.

"You are the prized and priceless child of your Heavenly Parent. My heart has been breaking with yours all these years. I have been pouring my love into your life hoping that you might feel it. Your Heavenly Parent has been showering you with Her Love and longs for you to receive it into your heart.

"You are stronger than you know. If you will allow yourself to come to know your Creator's Self-Giving Love, you may be healed of all that troubles you. The broken pieces of your life may become a beautiful mosaic full of light and goodness. If you choose, you may yet become a channel of healing and wholeness to the lost and lonely.

"My Sweet Sister, you have always assumed that you were an only child. It is time for you to know that it was my untimely death before you were born that created the secret wound that our parents still carry in silence. The unspoken fears that flowed from their heartbreak have hurt you deeply, making you question your value and worth. You are so very lovable. You are so very dear to me.

"Beautiful Baby Sister, you are more blessed than you know. Your Heavenly Parent loves you so very much. I love you more than words can ever express. God bless you beloved, beloved sister. I am with you always."

Tears continued to stream from the young woman's eyes. For the first time in her life, she felt truly safe and loved as she allowed herself to melt into a gentle, warm embrace.

Secrets of the Story

Those who challenge us have been hurt by the trauma of living in the world that humanity has built up out of its disconnection from the Divine Source. We have all been wounded by the harsh atmosphere that people call "reality" or "life," which (in truth) is neither of these things. We are all wounded people who wound people.

Many of us have no idea of the impact of spiritual forces on our lives. If we allow our woundedness to define us through suppression or identification, we will attract darker spiritual forces that will amplify our pain and suffering. Those who seek spiritual healing and wholeness will experience the benefits that flow from the ministrations of the higher spiritual forces who are able to help us.

Many people do not feel that they have a choice in responding to the slings and arrows of this cruel, death-dealing pseudo-reality that we have co-created. Most feel that they should either suffer or take up arms against their enemies in order to defeat or destroy them.

There is a third option, a much better way of being in this world: We may seek the way of soul transmutation by the power of our Heavenly Parent's Essence of Divine Love. Through repeated, heartfelt prayer for the Creator's Holy Love, over time we may be radically changed. We may receive spiritual guidance and protection along with a multitude of other gifts. As we receive these many blessings, we become evermore empowered to serve and uplift others in peace and unconditional compassion.

Just because we are not aware of the Power of Love that surrounds us does not mean that it's not there. Acknowledging our beautiful but broken lives is a perfect way for us to begin to let Love in.

The Missionary's Position

There once was a young and zealous missionary who was called to a remote jungle to serve and convert an isolated tribe of indigenous people. When he arrived at the village, the people showed him hospitality unlike anything he had ever experienced. They had also prepared a wonderful dwelling for him and made sure his every need was met.

As the people of the village learned about the young man's unique gifts and talents, they asked for his help with various tasks and projects. He gained a lot of satisfaction from being able to contribute to the well-being of the community.

As the missionary spent more time with the people, he came to see that even the tiniest details of their lives were marked with purpose and meaning. The pace and flow of life in the village was very different from anything he had experienced. People did whatever occurred to them, and everyone's needs were abundantly and easily met.

He became very curious about what was behind the purpose, ease and peace that infused every aspect of life in the village. One day he approached the village healer to learn more. The healer was an ancient woman who asked the missionary many questions about his life. After getting to know him, she started to tell him stories about the history of her people going back many generations.

She told a fantastic tale of how her people had ruled a vast global empire that was even more technologically advanced than his own country. She disclosed that her ancestors had enslaved the people of many nations and severely damaged the natural world to fuel their desire for wealth and power. Eventually their empire collapsed from a confluence of powerful climatic events, geological disasters, epidemics, political degradation and unsustainable economic activity. Her community was made up of the descendants of a small group of survivors from that doomed civilization. Their current way of life was based on what they had learned from millennia spent in communion with the Divine Source that they called, "The I." The missionary found her story ridiculous but told her he found it "interesting" and left.

The following morning the missionary rushed to the healer's home after waking from a terrifyingly real nightmare. After learning the contents of his dream, the healer said that it was showing him what was going to happen to his home country in the near future. She

also revealed that the elders of the village had *allowed him* to come so that he could better help people during and after the collapse of his own civilization.

“But my country is nothing like the evil empire you described from your history. My country is dedicated to bringing peace and prosperity to the world.” The healer looked at him with sadness and deep compassion, “My beloved brother, our ancestors said the very same thing right before their world ended.”

Secrets of the Story

Every empire has seen itself as a great light to a darkened world, bringing order out of chaos and peace out of war. The supposed light of empire is actually darkness, for what every empire achieves is paid for in the blood of our soul siblings and our beautiful Earth Mother. The steep costs associated with the establishment and sustenance of empire are assumed to be necessary. Those who resist empire are blamed for undermining the safety and security of the domination system that justifies its own greed and violence as being necessary and righteous.

Every empire promotes images of material rewards, punitive justice and illusory peace through indoctrination, violence and denial. Every empire believes in its right to control and dominate to achieve so-called peace through violence against people and Life itself. Every empire that has told itself this story has been wrong. That includes the current powers of the pseudo-reality who have ample historical evidence of the ultimate failure of every system of domination that humans have yet devised. The human capacity for self-deception in the face of overwhelming evidence is truly remarkable. We tell ourselves that we are so much smarter and better than those who failed before us. We're not. Our rule will not last forever either. It will come to a certain end.

True peace is not gained through violence but through the Unconditional Love that flows from the Heart of Divinity to the heart of humanity in answer to prayerful longing. Every kingdom and empire established by people disconnected from the Divine Source has fallen or will fail. Only that which is built upon the foundation of the Incorruptible and Unconditional Divine Love of God will last. Everything else, no matter how substantial it may seem, is only a passing shadow. The Truth and Love that flow from the Heart of Divinity will ultimately set us all free, regardless of our position in the false world we have invented.

Please, Please, Please Let me Love You!!!

I will share some of the secrets of the unfinished love story of humankind and our Creator. This story was never meant to be a secret but remains hidden because of the deep spiritual darkness that permeates our world, blinding and distracting many from the truth.

The story of the relationship between our Heavenly Parent and humanity is a real life love story. Every love story has someone who desperately loves another, but who is repeatedly thwarted from fully expressing that love and experiencing the desired response from the beloved.

The dynamic tension between what exists and what is deeply desired makes a good story. Otherwise every story would simply say, "And they lived happily ever after. The End." The more seemingly insurmountable the barriers are between the lover and the beloved, the better the love story. Humanity is in the middle of an incredible love story, because the chasm we have placed between our hearts and God's Heart of Love is so wide and deep.

The distance we have created is so great that many people are completely unaware of the drama that is playing out between our persistent refusal to accept our Heavenly Parent's Love and God's Limitless Passion for building a loving relationship with every single precious and beloved soul. Our Heavenly Parent is doing everything possible to bridge this distance so that we might feel God's Love in our hearts. This story represents a tiny drop in the ocean of God's efforts to help our hearts and souls to awaken in response to the tender Kiss of True Love.

Our Heavenly Parent longs to give the Divine Essence to the precious children of humanity. I call this Spiritual Essence Divine Love.

Our Loving Creator has been pouring out the Gift of Divine Love upon each and every child of humanity for thousands of years, with relatively few of them actually choosing to accept it. How has this happened? From the moment of incarnation, we have been persistently assaulted by the fear-based pseudo-reality that humanity has constructed out of a disconnection from the Truth, Light and Love of God yet falsely naming it "*the real world*" or "*life*."

These degraded spiritual conditions have led humankind into a profound spiritual blindness that manifests as ignorance of higher spiritual truths and an inability to perceive higher spiritual energies and entities. Most are so senseless that they cannot even feel the reality of the Creator in their lives.

Our Heavenly Parent does not hide in the highest heavens as so many believe but is always close and tenderly caring for us despite our fear and apathy. God has also sent thousands of troubadours and messengers of Divine Love over the millennia to help awaken us to Love. Many of us have been less than receptive to these overtures thus far, and so the drama continues to unfold.

What most do not yet realize is that the Earth is meant to be united with the heavenly realms. This consummation can only be realized through humankind's acceptance of God's Love. Instead of simple acceptance in response to God's persistent cries of, "***Please, Please, Please Let me Love You!!!***" many say, "I'm afraid. I don't trust you. I don't know you. I need to be in control! Who am I without my guilt, shame and anger? **I need to be right . . . even though I'm dying inside.**"

Each one of us has a very simple choice to make. Those who decide not to receive God's Love will likely continue to experience many different flavors of negativity. Those who are willing to trust God and open their hearts and souls to the inflowing of our Heavenly Parent's Love will have their symptoms of spiritual disease replaced by love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, beauty, harmony and truth. Their lives will become characterized by healing, wholeness and the certain knowledge that they are, have been, and will always be loved unconditionally by God. **They will not fear.**

Our Heavenly Parent continues to pour Divine Love upon each and every child's soul, but that Love has been largely unrequited, thus the unresolved tension of our love story has yet to reach its climax. In the interest of moving this love story along, **I am begging you from the depths of *my* soul to long from the depths of *your* own soul for the Love that flows from the Soul of God!**

Most good love stories are consummated in a beautiful wedding with broad smiles and tears of joy followed by a reception with abundant and delicious food and our closest friends and family laughing, eating and dancing together. I pray that our Love Story may be consummated in a beautiful Feast of Divine Love and Light with God and all of our precious and beloved soul siblings thoroughly enjoying the celebration.

And They All Lived Happily Ever After! The Beginning . . .

The Wall

There was a small country in the ancient world that was surrounded by ruthless warlords. It could not defeat them in battle, so it became a vassal state. Its beautiful and fertile land was stripped of its resources. Its young men died in numerous wars and many of its women and children were enslaved to enrich and empower their overlords.

Generation after generation, the tiny nation slowly built up its defenses. It built its walls thicker and higher. Its gates became stronger. The people felt more secure the stronger their defenses grew. After many decades of patient construction, the entire country was finally encapsulated within a massive dome.

The people felt completely safe under their dome even when the region became saturated by heavy rains over a period of months. They could not see that the rains were weakening the foundation of their defense. When the base gave way suddenly, the dome collapsed in an instant, killing thousands. Those who were not crushed by the doomed dome drowned in the massive flash flood that followed.

Secrets of the Story

When we are attacked, used, abused, neglected, insulted, injured, wounded, upset or hurt we usually build a barrier to protect the exposed vulnerability. It's like putting wall plaster on a flesh wound. We tend to repeat this process with every single insult to our being. Many of us who have survived these assaults are walking around with a hard, thick shell around our hearts and souls in an attempt to keep ourselves from re-experiencing the same kind of pain we have felt in the past. Our unhealed wounds will continue to trouble us deeply no matter how often we engage in different defense strategies and distraction tactics.

Instead of hardening ourselves with defenses against the next attack, I would like to propose an alternative to the survival through defense approach to life. For me the alternative is to do my best to thrive by opening my heart in prayer for my Heavenly Parent's Love. I can choose to allow Divine Love to flow into my soul every single time I experience fear, anguish, pain, heartbreak, anger, frustration, doubt and any other thought or emotion that is not in harmony with love, peace and goodness.

Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to allow the flood of God's Love to cleanse our hearts and souls, freeing us from everything that we cling to out of fear, including our precious defense programs, systems and structures.

This alternative way of being may not make much sense if we do not understand what Divine Love actually does to the one who allows it to enter in great abundance. Our Creator's Divine Love is an incomparable energy that changes the constitution of the soul so that its perceptions are expanded and its hidden gifts are unleashed. The inflowing of Divine Love allows the soul to receive and benefit from greater spiritual guidance and protection. Both of these gifts empower the soul to better fulfill its purpose in the world. Without God's Love, we are at the mercy of the merciless pseudo-reality that humankind has built on the flawed foundation of fear. Even though this fabricated reality has been touted as the best of all worlds, It Is Not.

Some may think that I am engaging in delusional or magical thinking - unjustified Polyannaism. This is possible. To those who are concerned that I may be cruelly peddling faith and hope when mistrust and cynicism are the best available responses to life's challenges, I ask,

“Have your defensive tactics brought you joy and inner peace? Have your fears and doubts actually eliminated the pain of the past or ended your anxieties about the future? Have you really given the Way of Love a chance to work in your life?”

I know it's scary to trust when we have so many reasons not to. Trusting God with our hearts is a very different game from any the pseudo-world offers. Is it a risk to trust God? Absolutely! But the greatest rewards come to those who are willing to risk everything they are afraid to lose. How can we experience a warm and beautiful life while clutching one that is cold and gray?

Just as this story suggests, the stone and mortar that we use for our defenses are actually the building blocks of our own tomb, whether we realize it or not. We were not created to live in a sepulcher, but to glory in the warmth of our Creator's Love. I pray that we may all open wide the gates of our hearts to God's Great Wave of Love instead of barricading ourselves behind our cold, hard fears.

The Baptism of the Soul

I've let my hurt
Hide my scarred heart
Beyond Love's touch.
I've feared too much.

When will inward darkness die?
How much longer will I wait
For anger to go away?
Will I be freed from my shame?

O Love Divine,
Wash away death
And leave true life
As aftermath!

Rising waters uplift
All I'm afraid to lose.
My white-knuckled death grip
Is so strong that it hurts.

I can't keep my head
Above the dark waves
By holding dead weights
For dear life instead
Of releasing them
Into unseen light.

Watching dead truths turn
Into lies before
My widening eyes hurts.
They weren't what I'd hoped.

As I let go, I know
That false fears and hopes
Were not really mine.
The need to be right
In my little mind
Is a cost too high.
Dark'ning my soul's light
For empty vict'ries.

Love's flood grows inside.
So many tears cried
While my mind's lies die.
My soul's made alive
In Love's liquid light.

The Resurrection of the Soul

After the fight,
Death on all sides.
Wounded, I choke
On dust and smoke.

Left for dead
On the field
My heart screams,
“Please, save me!”

Heaven’s sparks fall
And melt the shell
That’s made my heart
So cold and hard.

Tendrils of smoke curl
As defenses burn
Away while I die.
Still the ashes lie.

A soft breeze blows
The dry dust away.
Kindling a small flame
As new life grows.

Feathers unfurl.
Heart springs to life.
Lungs with fresh air fill.
New eyes open wide.

I see birds of flame
Gently bending down
Helping the dying
To catch holy fire.

Young wings of light beat
Against the scorched dirt
Spraying sparks and dust
While achieving lift.

Hearing a loud cry
I come alongside
Knowing the deep pain
Of true life denied.

The mind clings to death,
An unwelcome friend,
For fear of losing
Its soul-killing gains.

New life and hope arise
As the hard walls dissolve
In streaming phoenix tears'
Healing flow of Love-Light.

A Vision of the Path

I received a vision while praying for God's Divine Love to flow into my soul. I found myself in a very dark and foreboding forest. It was as if the light that allowed me to see it existed for the sole purpose of making the forest that much more dark and forbidding. All I could see around me were writhing roots and gnarled tree trunks with painfully twisted limbs going in all directions. There was no sky above. The scary forest with the apple-throwing trees in *The Wizard of Oz* had nothing on this forest. I really, really did not want to be in this horrible place!

I looked down and saw laid at my feet a pathway made of golden light. It was bright and warm and inviting. It felt completely safe despite the frightening forest surrounding me. The thing that really struck me was that the path was not laid out as I would expect. It was like a thin translucent sheet of light stretching out to infinity in front of me. It was perfectly straight and level with clear and bright edges. It did not twist or turn to avoid anything in the forest. My mind kept thinking that what I was seeing was impossible. It made no sense. The forest trails I have hiked always meandered left and right and up and down to conform to the terrain and other natural features like trees and boulders. This path did nothing like this. Without bulldozing the trees or blowing up the boulders, it just stretched into infinity as if there was nothing the forest could do to change its course.

There were several things that this vision suggested to me:

1. The path of Golden Light represented God's ideal path for each soul, not just me, but for each soul who seeks God's Love.
2. God's Path is a gift and a choice. We can choose to walk the path God has laid out for us or not.
3. We take the next step on God's Path from our soul's faith and trust in God even when our minds are unable to perceive and understand what is actually happening.
4. When we are on God's Path, we can experience peace, joy and tranquility in the presence of dark and frightening conditions.
5. God's Path is not complicated or convoluted. It is clear, simple and straightforward when our souls are in the flow of God's Love. This is quite miraculous to me. Perhaps from an outside perspective the path does all kinds of complex contortions to adjust to changing conditions. I just know that what I saw

was clear and simple, despite what my mind thought it should look like. That clarity and simplicity was a wonderful gift and comfort to me.

6. We may choose to leave the path that God has laid out for our souls and take our chances. I definitely did not want to do that in the vision, although I still do it in my daily life.
7. This is not the same path that we would choose for ourselves out of the training and programming we have received from other human beings. It is a path that does not conform itself to the ways and means of the pseudo-reality that humanity has constructed out of ignorance and opposition to God's Love and laws.

Revisiting this vision has helped me to trust the path that God has laid before me. I hope that it may be helpful to you on your journey. If it isn't helpful to you, please let it go.

I pray that we each may clearly see the unique path God has placed before us and walk it in the flow, rhythm and grace of God's Love. I pray that our paths may intersect in wondrous and miraculous ways as part of God's Plan for the salvation of humankind and the healing of the Earth. I pray that God's Love may help each of us to clearly see the next step we need to take on our journey now and for all eternity. May we express the deep hunger and thirst of our souls. May we allow ourselves to experience the glorious bounty of God's Unconditional Love and Absolute Acceptance. Amen.

The Faithful Atheist

Act One

Scene 1

N-O-W-H-E-R-E.

An ATHEIST and a BELIEVER are in the middle of a conversation.

BELIEVER

Huh! That makes me wonder. Do you believe in God?

ATHEIST

Hmmm...before I can answer, I need to know: Do you believe in the air you breathe?

BELIEVER

Well, that's a silly question!

ATHEIST

Yes! Exactly!

The BELIEVER steps back, looks at the ATHEIST, and walks away. The BELIEVER turns around to look at the ATHEIST, shakes his/her/their head, and exits.

Blackout.

Secrets of the Story

Reading Peter Rollins's *The Orthodox Heretic: And Other Impossible Tales* encouraged me to play around with the idea of what being a faithful atheist might be like. For me a faithful atheist would be one for whom belief in God/Source/Ground of Being/Creator/Etc. is irrelevant or even nonsensical. This belief would not be irrelevant or nonsensical because there is no Divine Reality. The faithful atheist would have such a pervasive and persistent experience of the absolute reality of the Divine that the question of belief in that reality would be completely irrelevant or nonsensical, much as the question of whether one believes in the air one breathes seems irrelevant or nonsensical since air is an absolute necessity for our biological existence.

Your Love

Your Love is fire
Giving warmth and light
In the cold and fright
Of long winter's night.

Your Love is cool shade
From the heat of day.

Your Love is the breeze
That helps me to breathe.

Your Love is cloud and rain
When the flames close in.

Your Love is a guide
Out of the maze my
Thoughts and fears have made.

Your Love is the deep blue ocean
To which my snowflake soul shall run.

The Reality of Divine Love

I have been blessed to be one of those souls who has personally experienced the reality of the Creator's Divine Love. As I have repeatedly longed for this Love from the depths of my soul, I have received it, and it has made all the difference in my life.

As I have received more of God's Divine Love according to my desire, my peace has increased and my pain, anger, anxiety and depression have decreased. As I have prayed for Divine Love to flood and heal my soul, I have received insights into how God is more wonderful than any dogma, scripture or doctrine could ever describe.

As I have received more of this Love, I have experienced wonderful perceptions and insights into the healing of my inmost being. While I still struggle with some things within me that are not yet aligned with the Love and Will of the Creator, I know that the quality of my life is so much better as a result of living as a recipient of this great Love.

God greatly desires to bless every soul with this unspeakably wonderful Gift. I am writing this message to encourage others who are unfamiliar with God's Love to discover the truth and wonderment of it for themselves.

This beautiful Love waits patiently at the door of our hearts to be invited inside. While knocking gently at the door, God does not interfere with our choices. As we allow this Holy Guest to enter into the dwellings of our souls, we engage in a process of being remade anew from within according to the strength and persistence of the soul's desire for more of this sublime Spiritual Substance to work within us.

There is nothing we need to do except desire from the depths of our souls for the Creator to bless us. No formulas or incantations or required. All that is needed is the humble crying out of the soul for Love Sublime. There are no restrictions or limitations on how much God may bless us except those we place upon ourselves.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to pray and long for this Love with all of the desire you can muster. God greatly desires to bless each one of us beyond anything we can comprehend. May we all be blessed abundantly in the warmth of God's Absolute Acceptance of each of us as precious and beloved souls. Amen.

So Much Better Than Normal

An Urgent Invitation to Personal and Global Transformation

On so many lips today, I hear the words, “When things get back to normal...”

I don't intend to be unkind or harsh in saying this, but things are never going back to normal. The sooner we accept this, the sooner we can begin to work toward the establishment of a new world that will be so much better than normal.

We're in the mess we're in because we have decided to do things on our own and in our own way despite the heavenly help that has always been available. Our global civilization is being disrupted as a consequence of the pursuit of desires that are out of harmony with God's Will and Love.

This crisis is not a random accident. It is not something that came out of nowhere. Humankind is responsible for the consequences we are experiencing due to our tendency to neglect the way of love and to pursue violence instead. We are experiencing powerful effects flowing from powerful causes put into motion by a hellbent human race.

I understand that most of us would rather repeat familiar unpleasantness and pain instead of seeking new and unknown bliss. Humans tend to resist change in all of its forms, even when that change is for the better. The current global crisis is no exception.

Whenever anyone speaks nostalgically about going “back to normal,” I really wonder if they understand what that means in the context of where the Creator is leading humanity. For me what is happening right now is a terrible, yet necessary, step to move from our present age of darkness (AKA: Normal) into a fresh age of light. Whenever anyone speaks of going “back to normal,” this is what I hear:

- Grinding poverty for billions of people.
- Environmental degradation and destruction that will lead to the desolation of the Earth.
- Endemic addiction to patterns of thought, emotion and behavior that destroy life.
- Injustice through the exploitation of people and the natural world for gain.
- Political and economic oppression.
- Rampant corruption.

- The denial of basic human rights to children, women, the poor, the sick, the vulnerable, people with disabilities, our elders, people of color, religious groups, minorities and many, many others.
- Sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, classism, ableism, nationalism, and every other -ism that represents forms of violence, oppression and discrimination.
- Homelessness.
- Famine and starvation.
- War.
- Disease.
- Slavery.
- Isolation and exclusion.
- Polluted water, air and soil.
- Lack of access to basic sanitation.
- Soul-crushing despair, greed and fear.
- Violence in a multitude of forms not described above.

It is well past time that we decide that these conditions are unacceptable for beings made in the image of our Creator's benevolent soul. I am deeply concerned that we have accepted these horrors as forming the normalcy of our civilization. I am greatly troubled that anyone would feel justified in saying that we should actually try to perpetuate these destructive conditions under the guise of a return to normalcy.

The best way to honor those who are sacrificing their safety and their lives in this time of crisis is to move forward in faith toward a much different world, an infinitely better world.

I propose that this moment in history presents us with the great opportunity to play a part in God's Plan for remaking the world from one that harms and hurts into one that brings healing and wholeness, beauty and goodness, truth and light to all.

Our Creator is calling us into a new reality. We have a basic choice about what we will allow to motivate us – fear and apathy or love and our soul's deep desire. I choose love. I choose the true desire of my soul that yearns for a new life and a new world. I invite all to choose love and deep soul desire at this critical time. Love will save us. Love never fails. It never has, and it never will.

We are receiving an unprecedented opportunity to experience a wonderful transformation of life on this planet. Our Creator greatly desires for us to end our war upon life and to live

in harmony within ourselves, between one other and upon our beautiful Earth. Let us stop pining for a past that has one foot in the grave and start yearning for a present and a future that are better than we can hope for or imagine.

I'm not saying that human beings can accomplish this powerful personal and global transformation on our own. We haven't done it so far, and there is no reason to expect that we will do so.

Our hope is in our Creator who greatly desires to transform us from within and to inspire us so that we may become the kind of people who are capable of building the bright future that God desires. Instead of going to war with God in willful desire, we can seek to live in humble harmony with natural and spiritual law.

How do we do this? We allow the deep desire of our souls for loving union with our Creator to be expressed fervently and repeatedly. That's it. If we frequently allow this deep desire of our souls for at-onement with God in Love to be expressed, we will be filled with the energy of Divine Love – the most powerful force in the universe. If we long for this love, it will come in accordance with our desires, and it will transform us from within, not just for a moment but for all eternity.

God's Love is able to take people who are addicted to darkness and help them to find their joy in love and light. It heals and renews broken hearts and wounded people. It brings together what is divided. God's Love transmutes darkness into light. It can change cold and hardened hearts and make them soft and warm in great compassion and gentleness. It transforms the mundane into the miraculous. It heals, guides and protects like nothing else can. God's Divine Love deposes death and enthrones abundant and eternal life in its place. It can only accomplish these wonders and many more if we make the effort to invite it into our souls.

I implore you to join me in building this new and wonderful future together through the power of God's Divine Love within our souls. Whether we know it or not, every soul has a deep purpose to fulfill in this life. There is a deeply profound and meaningful reason why each of us is alive at this particular moment in history. We are not here by accident!

If we allow God's Love to burn like an undying flame within our souls, we will discover our true purpose and live it for the benefit of all. God has a wondrous plan that incorporates the

unique gifts of each and every soul to contribute toward the undoing of what we have done in our arrogance and ignorance.

God's Plan is unfolding before our very eyes and it will culminate in the inauguration of an epoch of awe and wonder. It's not in full view yet, but the clues and signs of its immanence are obvious to those who have been on the lookout.

We each have a choice to either live into God's vision or to resist it. The tide of light is rising. Its waves have already started to erode the foundations of the agreements and institutions that we have built upon the sands of hubris. We each have a very simple choice to make. Those who are wise will choose love and faith over fear and cynicism.

Here is one way to put the question that lies before each and every one of us during this critical time:

Will I cling to the familiar even if it means drowning in the waves of change, or will I take hold of this Lifeline of Love and trust it to take me safely to an unknown shore?

How we answer this question will determine the quality of our experiences in the days to come. We cannot fully experience new blessings without releasing the artifacts of the past. We cannot both hold onto the sinking wreck and the lifeline indefinitely. We must choose.

I pray that we will all seek to live in harmony with God's waves of love, light and blessing as they gently caress our precious souls and our beautiful world. May we open our souls to receive these powerful blessings for our salvation and the reclamation of the Earth. God passionately desires for each and every one of us to experience new life in a new world that will be so, so, so much better than normal. Amen.

Striking at the Root

I keep hearing about people praying for the elimination of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the COVID-19 disease. I believe most of us truly want to see an end to the suffering associated with this microbe. It makes sense that people desire to see a speedy end to its impact upon so many souls and the world that humanity has created. I know that people are very well-intentioned in this desire. Despite the sincerity of these intentions, they are fundamentally misplaced and will not create the effects that are so greatly desired by so many at this time.

This microbe and the disease associated with it are actually effects caused by the great violence that humanity has wrought upon the Earth. This virus constitutes a response to the proliferation and intensification of conditions that humankind has produced in contradiction to the harmony of God's Laws of creation. This virus is not an external threat. It is simply one material manifestation of many flowing from humanity's inner darkness. It is a direct consequence of humanity's deep inner dis-ease.

I propose that instead of focusing our efforts in prayer upon the elimination of effects - in this case a particular microbe and the disease associated with it - we focus our efforts in prayer upon asking for God's help in removing those conditions within us that have allowed the virus to develop along with its damaging and deadly consequences. We are all being called to take responsibility for our inner darkness that has manifested itself in this way at this time. We are all being called upon to seek God's help in healing everything within us that is out of harmony with love and life.

Henry David Thoreau wrote in *Walden*, "There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root...." I consider the prayers for the elimination of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to be a multitude of hackings at the branches of evil, with this particular virus being but one branch of many in our world. Our Creator is calling us to strike at the root cause of the evil in our world which is our very own willful refusal to live in harmony with God's Will and Love.

The effects of this disease are very real to me. There are people I know and love who are infected with this virus. Some of them are struggling to breathe at this very moment. I am praying from the depths of my soul for their healing. I anticipate that I may lose people that I love dearly in this pandemic despite my prayers for their healing. I sincerely hope that

everyone may survive this disease. I do not want any more people to become infected by it or to die from it.

I just can't stand silently by without addressing the illusion that we had nothing to do with the development of this disease. We did. We caused it by living out of harmony with Life itself. This terrible infection is a natural consequence for our very own terrible way of being and acting as a species. We can't expect over seven and a half billion people to persistently live out of harmony with the principles of life and love without consequence. We are living in a time of extreme consequence. If we do not face the effects of our errors and allow our hearts and souls to be changed, we will do further harm to ourselves and to the Earth.

The Earth is currently blanketed by a great spiritual darkness that looks, feels and smells like a combination of smog, slime and muck. Most of humanity has simply grown accustomed to its existence, deadly and oppressive as it is. This darkness need not persist. It must not persist if life is to thrive upon the Earth. Through the exercise of our wills in harmony with God's Love, we can dispel this great darkness and experience an abundance of spiritual light.

We cannot do this on our own. We cannot simply wish for the darkness to disappear. We desperately need to ask for help. We need to cry out to our Heavenly Parent from the depths of our souls for the blessings that will change us from being children who have become accustomed to mumbling and stumbling in the dark, to children who sing and dance in the light. God is calling each of us to awaken to the dawning of light and love that is breaking in upon our collective dark night of the soul. Our Creator calls for us to accept responsibility for what we are doing wrong, to stop doing it and to start living in harmony with life instead of choosing fear, violence and death.

Please join me in seeking the power of God's Divine Love for the transformation of our souls into the very essence of God's divinity, so that we, together with our Creator, may strike at the root of evil that lies within our own hearts. God greatly desires to heal our diseases, wounds, hurts, doubts and fears. Our Heavenly Parent eagerly awaits our willingness to receive that which brings light, truth, peace, joy, clarity and love.

We may strike at the roots of evil that have twisted into prison walls and bars around our hearts through heartfelt prayer to receive the inflowing of God's Divine Love. If we do this, we can begin to exercise our wills in harmony with our Creator's Will. This spiritual conspiracy will not only eliminate the effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19

disease. Doing this will eliminate the growth of new branches of evil by addressing the root cause of the problem instead of the symptoms.

God is calling each of us to become spiritual radicals, children of light who address the root causes of evil within ourselves instead of mitigating superficial symptoms perceived as external to us. Our civilization has been much more concerned with symptom management than healing. It is time for each one of us to become true forces for healing in this world. Humanity doesn't need another pain killer or symptom mitigation treatment. We need deep and profound healing. It is freely available for the asking. It comes with the inflowing of God's Unconditional Love.

If we come to God in heartfelt prayer, we will be empowered to establish true and lasting peace and harmony within ourselves, among ourselves, with our loving Creator and with the wondrous creation entrusted to our love and care. With God's help, we can address the root of all problems that lie within our darkened hearts that cry out for our Heavenly Parent's warm embrace. Amen.

Will You Open Your Heart to My Love?

After watching a video by a staff member of the church that I attend who spoke of Jesus taking upon himself the sins of humanity, suffering and dying for them, I was deeply troubled. This person also mentioned how the Bible says that the sky darkened and the Earth shook at the moment of Jesus' death. I took it to my Heavenly Parent in prayer. This is what our loving Creator shared with me:

My precious and beloved souls, I want you to know that it is not necessary for any soul to take upon themselves another's errors. The Grace of my Love is sufficient for all of your needs.

I created you in my great desire to share my Love with you. I Love you more than you know. You are so dear and precious to me. You are the children of my great care and compassion.

My Love is able to heal all of your wounds, to free you from error, to bring you peace and joy and truth without measure. My Love is a gift freely available to each and every one of you.

I stand upon the doorstep of your heart, knocking gently to awaken you from your slumbers. I have been waiting upon your doorstep, knocking ever so gently since the moment you entered this world. I desire so greatly to give you the gift of my Love. You are the children of my heart. I desire to shower riches upon your souls that are beyond your ability to comprehend or even hope for.

I have given you each the gift of will, the ability to choose what you desire, free from any compulsion on my part. This is why the earth shudders today. This is why the sky is so dark today, because my children have not accepted the gift of my Love. I am here with you. I have not abandoned you. I will never abandon you. My desire to shower my Love upon your soul is so very great, as is my patience.

I invite you all to drink from the Living Waters that flow from my soul to yours. These waters are yours if you desire. They will quench your thirst, bring healing and wholeness to your entire being. Every blessing is available to you, my dear and precious children.

I stand upon the doorstep of your heart, ready to serve. Will you open your heart to my Love? I am your Creator, and I love you dearly, precious, precious souls.

Epilogue

We are approaching *the crucial turning point* in the amazing Love Story of the Creator and humankind. We are in the process of shifting from millennia of heartache and heartbreak toward an unprecedented acceptance by humankind of a massive outpouring of Love and Light from our Creator.

I hope that you have gained some insight and inspiration from the stories in this book to support your participation in his amazing spiritual journey.

Divine Love is the river running through all of these stories. While natural love is a beautiful gift, my soul's desire is that every soul may become aware of the great boon of our Creator's Divine Love, the very Essence of God's Great Soul, and the way to receive it.

Our Creator is using every means available to spread the truth of the availability of Divine Love and the way to receive it through heartfelt longing and prayer. Just because our Love Story does not conform to most people's expectations does not make it any less true or real for those of us who desire a happy beginning.

We have been created to become one with our Creator in Love. This is our Creator's great desire for each and every one of us. The process of becoming one with our Creator produces a multitude of gifts and blessings that far surpass our wildest imaginings.

Our Creator patiently awaits our response whether it be in this life or the next. I sincerely hope that we will each decide to respond sooner rather than later, not only for our own benefit, but for the upliftment of humankind and our beautiful jewel of a world. Humankind and the Earth are in such desperate need of Light and Love at this time.

The choice has always been ours whether we have been aware of it or not. It is a choice that makes all the difference in this world and the next.

Please know that you are loved unconditionally by God no matter what happens, no matter what you decide...



About the Author

Bill Frase walks the Divine Love Path. He is the author of wakeupcallforthesoul.com and [Divine Love Essentials](#). He is the founder of the Pittsburgh Circle of Light. He is drawing souls to the Creator's Heart of Unconditional Love and Absolute Acceptance at this critical time in human history as great waves of change continue to transform life on Earth.

He lives with his partner and son in southwestern Pennsylvania, USA. He has worked in a variety of fields over the years ranging from the performing arts to epidemiological research. In his day job, he is the senior manager of the business services initiative for a disability services non-profit.

Bill offers the following assistance:

- Living Your Soul's Purpose
- Divine Love Path Mentoring/Coaching
- Dream/Life Interpretation
- Circle of Light Development
- Harmonizing the Divine Love Path and Christianity
- Healing

For more information, contact Bill at: <https://wakeupcallforthesoul.com/contact/contact-form/>