

A VOICE OF

fort Sanders's Faith Sons



DATE: June 1987

VOLUME: VI

NUMBER: 6

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

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The Passport to Paradise

Do You Know What it is?

On page 290 a Perfectioner of Wisdom tells us: "Ability to comprehend is the mortal passport to Paradise." And it is written in italics. So don't let anyone tell you that you are too intellectual! After all, we read on 1104-5, "It is your thoughts, not your feelings, that lead you Godward."

Of course, you need to keep balance. You remember — work, progress, play; or service, study, relaxation (526).

But what most people mean when they say you are too intellectual is that you are too logical, trying to probe into the meanings of things, instead of just relaxing and "loving." By the way, I don't think people that talk like that realize the true meaning of love. I think to them it's what I'd call mushy sentimentality.

Of course, there are the qualities (values) which are felt in the soul (121) and can't be measured or defined, but that doesn't excuse us from probing for meanings, which are quantitative and can be defined.

I think it's ridiculous to say you can use your mind too much. Of course it needs rest. You need to work or play awhile. When I study the U-Book for a couple of hours or so, I have to stop and do something else for a while — like read Agatha Christie, plant a rose bush, cook supper, sing some Old Harp, call somebody, or just anything to rest my intellect for a while.

We can have perfection of purpose now: "It is my will, Father, that your will be done." My purpose is to do the will of God. Can any purpose be more perfect? In a million or a billion years I'll still have the same purpose. (1295). Remember I'm talking about my purpose, not my ability to live up to it at this time. (1133)

And I think it's his will that I get on with the job of trying to understand (comprehend) him and his universe.

We're all supposed to use all the talents we've been given. Remember

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We're all supposed to use all the talents we've been given. Remember the man with the one talent who buried it? It was taken away from him — and given to the one who had ten talents!

Indications of the Climate of the Times Dept:

To look at the advertize ments in the magazines and TV, you'd think Easter was all about eggs and rabbits, and that Christmas was all about Santa Claus and reindeer — and presents, of course.



A Misunderstood Term: Unconditional Love



You hear it quoted all the time. Unconditional love — unconditional love — with that faintly sanctimonious air that tells us plainly that the quoters have no idea of the true meaning of what they're saying. (They think it's being a martyr.)

Love — basic love — which undergirds all kinds of real love — means the desire to do good to others. (648)

Now, what is good?

It's what Jesus (who loved perfectly) was doing when he cleansed the temple — when he told off the Pharisees and Sadducees at the last temple discourse (1905) — when he refused to speak to Herod ("that fox"). 1999

It's also what he was doing when he cured the man born blind — when he visited with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus — when he called to Zaccheus to come down from the tree (1874).

"Jesus loved men so much and so wisely that he never hesitates to be severe with them when the occasion demanded such discipline" (187).

In my opinion, there can be no "good" unless it in some way, however small, draws the person closer to God, or makes conditions conducive to that. Or improves their physical health.

Continually putting up with a teen-ager's flouting of the home rules in the name of unconditional love isn't that at all. It's just the opposite, as it's teaching them "anything goes".

Unconditional love, what is it? To me, it means you'll do any — you can for the good of that person — whether he likes it or not! (An acquaintance of mine asked, "Who gave you authority to decide what's good for another person?" I said, "I have to decide how I'm going to relate to him. He can accept it or not.")

It's what the angels (in the Bible) were singing about when they sang "Peace on Earth, good will toward men." It's the opposite of malice.

So, according to that definition, we should have unconditional love for every person on earth. Our good will is not dependent on conditions. When you understand what real love is you'll see that unconditional love is the only kind there is. It comes from God. (289)

On page 2096 it explains that certain things might pass for love, but divested of truth, beauty, and goodness (divine qualities Pg. 3) they turn out to be: "only a sentiment, a philosophic distortion, a psychic illusion, a spiritual deception."

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In his book The Four Loves, C.S. Lewis says that if Storge (affection), Philia (friendship), and Eros (romantic love) are not drawn up into Agape (divine love), they will die. That's a good book.

True relationships are eternal. They are what life is all about. They consist of unconditional love between persons.

(1228)





More About Quality - Values

I once read (or almost finished - it became tedious) a book called Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. As well as I remember, this fellow drove himself crazy trying to define Quality.

Well, the U-Book tells us we can't. On page 1219 it says Quality - values - is felt. In the soul.

If we could define it that would mean that it was Quantitative. The mind could define it.

Maybe that's the reason some people whose souls are almost stagnant (maybe) attach so much importance to the material things. If true (eternal) value - (Quality) is felt in the soul, and they aren't interested in God and what his will is for them - how can they discern Quality?

I'm not putting down the material things. They are necessary for life on this planet, and the source of much pleasure.

But what is life on this planet for? To start our eternal career of being spiritual beings who love and serve and enjoy.

So we need to recognize the material as means to an end. Not the end itself - which is fellowship with the personality of Deity.¹²²⁵

On page 1199 we read: "While in the universe and Superuniverse careers, no man can serve two masters, in the life you now live on Urania every man must perforce serve two masters. He must become adept in the art of a continuous human temporal compromise, while he yields spiritual allegiance to but one master, and this is why so many falter and fail, grow weary and succumb to the stress of the evolutionary struggle".



So let's not confuse the means with the end. On 1228 it tells us that nonspiritual things are means to an end. And it also says all true relationships are ends in themselves. That's what life is all about.

True relationships - those between souls - never die. They are valuable. They have quality.

But there can be no true relationship between people whose souls are dying - who are becoming unreal. Only temporary ones.

"Quality - values - is felt". 1219

Which reminds me of this little poem my Mother used to say:

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I do not like thee, Dr. Fell;

The reason why I cannot tell;

But this I know, and know quite well,

I do not like thee, Dr. Fell!